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Contents

- 8 List of maps
- 9 Index

THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

The Physical Environment

- 33 Geology and geomorphology
- 40 Climate
- 45 Hydrology
- 46 Soils
- 48 Vegetation
- 52 Fauna

The Peoples

- 57 The development of mankind
- 74 Languages
- 78 Ethnic groups

THE AFRICAN PAST

Before European Colonization

- 89 The Ancient Nile Valley
- 95 The Copper and Iron Ages
- 100 Classical North Africa
- 105 North-East Africa before the rise of Islam
- 112 The spread of Islam in North Africa
- 117 Islam and Christianity in North-East and East Africa
- 125 Bantu Africa
- 130 The Western and Central Sudan
- 136 Europe, North Africa and the Sahara 1250–1835
- 141 The Portuguese in Africa c.1450–1650
- 145 The slave trade era
- 151 The prelude to European occupation c.1820–85

The European Occupation

- 156 The Scramble for Africa
- 158 African resistance
- 160 French expansion: North Africa
- 161 French expansion: Tropical Africa
- 163 British expansion
- 164 Belgian expansion
- 165 Portuguese expansion
- 166 German expansion
- 167 Italian expansion
- 168 Spanish expansion
- 169 Southern Africa
- 171 Ethiopia
- 172 Liberia
- 173 Egypt
- 175 The First World War

European Rule 1919–39

- 177 Colonial doctrines and practices
- 178 French North Africa
- 179 French Black Africa
- 181 British West Africa
- 183 British East Africa
- 184 British Central Africa
- 186 Egypt and the Sudan
- 187 Italy and the Horn
- 188 Belgian Africa
- 190 Portuguese Africa
- 190 Spanish Africa
- 191 Southern Africa

The Struggle for Independence

- 193 Pan-Africanism and African nationalism to 1939
- 195 The Second World War
- 196 The Maghrib
- 199 Libya, Egypt and the Sudan
- 200 French West Africa
- 202 French Equatorial Africa and Cameroon
- 203 Madagascar

- 204 The Horn of Africa
- 205 Belgian Africa
- 207 British West Africa
- 210 British East Africa
- 213 British Central Africa
- 215 South Africa
- 217 Portuguese Africa
- 219 The colonial legacy

CONTEMPORARY AFRICA

Africa since Independence

- 223 Algeria
- 224 Angola
- 224 Benin
- 225 Botswana
- 226 Burundi
- 226 Cameroon
- 227 Cape Verde Islands
- 227 Central African Republic
- 228 Chad
- 228 Comoro Islands
- 229 Congo
- 229 Djibouti
- 230 Egypt
- 231 Equatorial Guinea
- 232 Ethiopia
- 233 Gabon
- 233 The Gambia
- 234 Ghana
- 235 Guinea
- 236 Guinea-Bissau
- 236 Ivory Coast
- 237 Kenya
- 238 Lesotho
- 239 Liberia
- 239 Libya
- 240 Madagascar
- 241 Malawi

- 241 Mali
- 242 Mauritania
- 242 Mauritius
- 243 Morocco
- 244 Mozambique
- 245 Namibia
- 245 Niger
- 246 Nigeria
- 248 Réunion
- 248 Rwanda
- 248 São Tomé and Príncipe
- 249 Senegal
- 249 Seychelles
- 249 Sierra Leone
- 250 Somalia
- 251 South Africa since 1961
- 253 Sudan
- 254 Swaziland
- 255 Tanzania
- 256 Togo
- 257 Tunisia
- 257 Uganda
- 258 Upper Volta
- 259 Western Sahara
- 260 Zaire
- 261 Zambia
- 262 Zimbabwe

Government

- 264 Ideologies
- 265 Forms of government
- 267 Legal systems

Utilization of Natural Resources

- 270 Energy
- 274 Water resources
- 277 Forestry and timber
- 280 Minerals
- 283 People as a resource
- 287 Hunting and gathering
- 290 Pastoralism

- 294 Agriculture and fishing
- 305 Environmental hazards
- 311 Conservation

Political Economy

- 315 Development
- 326 Agriculture and peasantry
- 330 Craft production
- 334 Mineral exploitation
- 337 Industrialization
- 346 Industrial location
- 348 Wage labour
- 351 State ownership and indigenous entrepreneurship
- 354 Appropriate technology
- 357 Regional groupings
- 360 Transport
- 365 Markets
- 369 Finance and banking
- 371 Trade patterns
- 376 White settlerdom in South Africa
- 378 Tourism

Society

- 381 The changing family
- 382 Social stratification
- 384 Urbanization
- 388 Ethnicity and communalism
- 391 Traditional medicine
- 392 Modern medicine
- 397 Education
- 403 Communications media

Religion

- 406 Traditional religions
- 408 Christianity
- 410 Islam

Arts and Recreation

- 413 Traditional arts and crafts
- 425 Traditional architecture

- 431 Contemporary painting and sculpture
- 434 Dance
- 436 Drama and cinema
- 440 Literature
- 442 Traditional music
- 446 Popular music
- 451 Sport
- 454 Entertainment and leisure

AFRICA AND THE WORLD

Inter-African Relations

- 459 Pan-Africanism since 1958
- 460 The Organization of African Unity
- 461 The Economic Commission for Africa
- 462 Regional groupings: a listing

International Relations

- 463 Neo-colonialism
- 464 Africa and the USA
- 465 Africa and the USSR
- 466 Africa and China
- 467 Africa and the Third World

The Black Diaspora

- 469 The Muslim world
- 472 Europe
- 475 The Caribbean and Guyanas
- 478 Latin America
- 481 North America

- 485 Further reading
- 492 Acknowledgements

List of maps

- 32 Tectonics
- 34 Geology
- 37 Relief and landforms
- 40 Mean annual sunshine hours
- 40 Average global temperature (°C): January
- 41 Average global temperature (°C): July
- 41 Surface pressure and air masses: January
- 42 Surface pressure and air masses: July
- 42 Annual rainfall (millimetres)
- 43 Rainfall peaks
- 43 Annual rainfall variability
- 44 Days (mean) with thunderstorms per year
- 45 Physiological climate: January
- 45 Physiological climate: July
- 47 Soils
- 51 Major vegetation zones
- 66 Major pre-iron age archaeological sites
- 71 Probable areas of domestication of selected African crops
- 76 Major languages
- 89 The ancient Nile Valley
- 100 Classical North Africa
- 107 North-East Africa before the rise of Islam
- 112 The spread of Islam in North Africa
- 117 Islam and Christianity in North-East Africa
- 126 Bantu Africa
- 131 West African peoples and states 12th-17th centuries
- 135 West African peoples and states 18th and 19th centuries
- 136 Europe, North Africa and the Sahara
- 174 Africa in 1914
- 222 The States of Africa
- 290 Distribution of cattle and tsetse fly
- 294 Desertification risk
- 295 Staple crops: cassava and wheat
- 295 Staple crops: millets, sorghum and yams
- 296 Staple and cash crops: maize
- 296 Staple and cash crops: oil palm and dates
- 297 Staple and cash crops: groundnuts and citrus
- 297 Staple and cash crops: bananas and ensete
- 298 Cash crops: rubber and tobacco
- 298 Cash crops: coffee, sugar and grapes
- 299 Cash crops: cocoa and tea
- 299 Cash crops: cotton and cloves
- 313 National parks approved by the IUCN (1978)
- 340 Manufacturing in Africa: factory workers as a proportion of total population
- 363 Transport
- 368 Market periodicity in West Africa

Index

An asterisk against a name or word in the text indicates that there is an entry on this subject, or substantial further reference to it, which can be found elsewhere in the book by looking it up in the Index

- ABAKO, see *Alliance des Bakongo*
- Abbas, Ferhat 197, 223
- Abbasids 113, 114, 115, 471
- Abbas II Hilmi, khedive 173
- Abd al-Kader, Amir 160
- Abd al-Mumin 116 137
- Abd al-Rahman al-Mahdi, Sayyid 199
- Abd al-Wadids 137
- Abd el-Krim, Mohammed 190, 196
- Abeokuta 393
- Abidjan 367, 394-5
- Abomey 161
- Aborigines Rights Protection Society 193
- Abrahams, Peter 441
- Abua language 77
- Abu Bakr 116
- Abu Inan, sultan 138
- Abu Simbel 92
- Abu Yazid 114
- Acacia* 49-50, 279
- Accra 81, 142, 181, 206, 209, 347, 361, 369, 395, 407, 451
- Acheampong, Col Ignatius 234-5
- Achebe, Chinua 431, 440
- Acheulian 60-4, 67
- Achimota College 207
- Acholi people 82, 258
- Achour, Habib 257
- Action Group (Nigeria) (AG) 209, 246
- Adal 122-4
- Adamawa-Eastern language 77
- Adangme 77, 81
- Addis Ababa 105, 120, 124, 167, 188, 229, 394, 433
- Conference (1972) 254, 397
- Treaty (1896) 172
- Aden Abdullah Osman 204
- Aden 111, 163, 167
- Ade, Sunny 449, 450
- administration 92, 112, 160, 162, 164, 172, 181, 384, 388, 473
- administrators 116, 143, 231
- Adowa battle 167, 172
- Adrar Bous (Niger) 69, 72
- Adulis port 106-9, 111
- Advisory Council of the N. Sudan 199
- Afar (Djibouti) 33, 36, 61, 78, 105, 229, 426
- al Afdal 115-16
- Affade language 75
- Afonso I 143
- AFRC, see Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (Ghana)
- African Agricultural Credit Commission 370
- African Amateur Boxing Association 451
- African Boxing Union (ABU) 451
- African Churches 409-10
- African Development Bank 370
- African diaspora 469-84
- African Football Confederation 451
- African Morning Post* 181, 209
- African National Congress (South Africa) (ANC) 192-3, 215-17
- (Northern Rhodesia) (ANC) 213
- African National Council (Zimbabwe) (ANC) 263
- African Orthodox Church 484
- Africans, formally educated 164, 193
- African socialism 207, 265, 269
- Africa Proconsularis 101-3
- African-Portuguese interaction 141-5, 151
- Afrifa, Brigadier Akwasi 234
- Afrikaans 77-8, 216, 252, 376
- Afrikaners 78, 171, 191-2, 213, 216, 376-7
- Afrikaner National Party, see National Party
- Afrikanische Gesellschaft in Deutschland* 152
- Afrique noire française* (French Black Africa) 179
- Afro-Americans, see Americans, black
- Afro-Asian partnership, bloc 118, 230, 467, 468
- Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization 466
- Afro-Asiatic languages 75, 81, 105
- Afro-Brazilians 478-80
- Afro-Latin Americans 479-80
- Afro-Portuguese 143
- Afro-Shirazi Party (Zanzibar) (ASP) 212
- AG, see Action Group (Nigeria)
- Agadir 141
- age-sets 83, 86, 105, 128, 434
- Agew 105-6, 108, 109, 111, 121, 123
- Aghlabids 114, 470
- agricultural peoples 49, 71, 79, 81-2, 85, 96, 102, 131, 242, 284, 392
- production 148, 151, 183, 225, 229, 326, 372, 383
- work-force 258, 276, 284-5, 305, 348-50
- agriculture 131, 127, 275, 295-304, 326-30, 342-4
- African 189, 205, 210-11, 240, 249-50, 295-304, 326, 349, 389
- compulsory under colonial rule 166, 181, 183, 196, 217, 326
- early 64, 72-3, 96, 131
- modernization, investment 324, 346, 350, 370-1, 383
- Ahidjo, Ahmadou 202, 226
- Ahmadu (Tokolor) 161
- Ahmadu Bello University 355
- Ahmadu Lobbo, Seku 134
- Ahmed Abdallah 228-9
- Ahmed Badly 123
- Ahmed ibn Ibrahim al-Ghazi 120, 124
- Al Ahram* 403
- Ahomadegbe, Justin 225
- aid 286, 321, 467-8
- Aidoo, Ama Ata 437
- Air 50, 52
- Air Afrique* 358, 463
- air transport 179, 358, 359, 362, 373, 378, 379, 462, 463
- Ait Benhaddan 425
- Aja 133
- Ajaokuta 361
- Aja states 148
- Ajuran 110
- Akan area, 97, 132, 142, 182
- kingdoms, states 132-3, 409
- language (= Twi-Fante) 77-8
- people 78, 80, 132, 148, 235, 382, 435, 436
- Akhnaton, king 92
- Akintola, S. L. 246
- Akinyele 367-8
- Akolo, Jimoh 433
- Aksum, Ethiopia 73, 94, 105, 108-9, 111, 120, 122
- period, dynasty 106-7, 111, 121
- Akuapern people 235
- Akuffo, Lt Gen Fred 234
- Akwamu 148
- Akwete 334
- Akyem 148
- Aladura (Church of the Lord), 392, 409
- el-Alamein, battle 199
- Alawites (Morocco) 139-40, 198, 259, 470
- Alcazarquivir (al-Qasr al-Kabir) battle 139
- alcoholics 394
- Alexander the Great 93, 101, 106
- Alexandria 108, 112, 136-8, 140, 156, 200, 347, 365, 369, 384, 408
- Alexis, Jacques Stéphen 478
- Algeria 223-4, 265-8, 284, 383, 390, 404-5, 451
- agriculture, pastoralism 240, 293, 303-5, 330
- Arab, Turkish 113-16, 137-8
- archaeology 62, 69, 72
- economy 281-3, 349, 369-72
- external relations 357, 462, 466-7, 474
- French 153, 158, 160, 177-9, 197, 220
- independence struggle 197-8, 202, 217, 257, 464
- physical 36, 38, 43
- resources 270, 272, 279, 281-3, 324, 334, 336, 365
- Roman 101-2, 104
- Algerians 160, 162, 176, 198, 284, 390
- Algiers 139-40, 152, 160, 365, 394, 468
- Ali al-Mirghani, Sayyid 199
- Ali Shermarke, Abdar-Rashid 204, 250
- Ali Soilihi 228-9
- Ali Yusuf, Shaykh 173
- All-Africa Games 451, 455
- All African Peoples' Conference 459
- Allal el Fassi, see el-Fassi, Allal
- Alliance des Bakongo* (ABAKO) 206
- Allied Powers (First World War) 158, 168, 175
- Allies, Allied forces (Second World War) 195, 199, 202-3, 216
- All Peoples Congress (Sierra Leone) (APC) 250
- Almohads 116, 137, 470

- Almoravids 79, 116, 132, 137, 411, 470
 ALN, see *Armée de la Libération Nationale* (Algeria)
 Aluko, T. M. 440
 aluminium 226, 234, 281, 336, 273, 374
 Alwa 110, 119
 Amax 335
 Ambo (= Ovambo) people 78, 245
 Ambriz 224
 Amda Siyon, Emperor 122–3
 Amda Siyon II 124
 Amenhotep III 94
 American and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society 482
 American Colonization Society 172, 464
 Americans 145–6, 157, 194
 Americans, black 153, 172, 193–4, 205, 447–8, 450, 459, 464, 472–3, 477–84
 American War of Independence 473, 482, 484
 Americo-Liberian people 80, 153, 239
 Amhara 78, 85–6, 111, 120–22, 188
 Amharic language 75, 78, 106, 120
 Amin, Idi 240, 248, 256, 258, 266, 354, 358, 362, 379
 Anang people 81
 ANC, see African National Congress (South Africa)
 ANC, see African National Council, (Zimbabwe)
 ancestors 83, 392, 406, 407, 414, 443
 Ancient Egypt, see Egypt, ancient
 Anderson, Benjamin 172
 Anderson, Marian 483
 Andriananjato, Richard 203
 Angas language 75
 Anglo-American Corporation 185, 261
 Anglo-Egyptian Sudan 173, 199, 253
 Anglo-Egyptian treaty, alliance 187, 199
 Anglo-Ethiopian boundary commission 188
 Anglophone Africa 264, 357, 360, 370, 440, 451, 456
 Angola 33, 65, 268–9, 272, 281, 283, 303
 labour 165, 190, 349
 liberation struggle 217, 219, 243, 252, 256, 262, 265, 460, 464, 465–7
 literature 441
 modern 328, 372, 378, 381
 peoples 78, 82, 125, 285, 287, 478–9
 Portuguese trade 128, 143, 148–9, 155, 169
 Portuguese colonization 125, 130, 158, 165–6, 190, 219, 408
 sculpture 413, 420–1
 Anikulapo-Kuti, Fela 449, 450
 animal husbandry 278, 290–4, 356, 360, 462
 animal numbers 54, 293–4, 312
 Anjouan, see Nzawani
 Ankrah, Lt. General Joseph 234
 Annaba, (Bone) = Hippo 104
 annexation 154, 162, 165, 168, 171
 Annobón 169
 Ansar 199, 254
 Antananarivo 394–5
 Antara 471
 antelope 54, 311–12
 anti-colonialism 195, 200, 205, 207, 265, 403, 410, 459, 464–5, 467, 477
 Antigua 476
 anti-slavery activities 152–3, 163
 Anyi people 78
 Aosta, Duke of 188
 apartheid 192, 215–16, 245, 251–2, 268, 376–8, 437, 452, 460, 465, 468
 APC, see All People's Congress (Sierra Leone)
 Apithy, Sourou Migan 225
 apprenticeship systems 402, 413
 appropriate technology 354–6
 Arab Africa 459
 Arabia, 52, 78, 105–6, 109–110, 113, 117–18, 119, 410–11, 469–71
 Arabia, South 78, 105–6, 109–110, 119
 language, script 101, 106, 108
 Arabic language 78–9, 84, 111, 113, 117–18, 160, 179, 242, 390, 403, 405, 438, 441
 Arabic, modern 438
 Arabic-speaking peoples 404, 456
 Arabi Pasha 173
 Arab League 197–8, 229, 231, 240, 254
 Arab traders 118–20, 125, 128, 154, 383, 469, 478
 Arabs 78–9, 85, 119, 130, 284, 382, 393, 408
 East Africa, Zanzibar 85, 99, 163, 184, 211–12
 North Africa 104, 110–15, 196, 242
 Arab Socialist Union 230, 240
 Arab-Swahili people, see also Swahili 129, 154
 Aragon 116, 138
 architecture 118, 425–30
 Arden-Clarke, Sir Charles 208
 Areogun 413
 Argentina 478–80
 Arguin 141
 Argungu fishing festival 455–6
 arid zone 46, 48, 74, 79, 307, 360
 aristocrats 83, 184, 411, 446
 Argobba 120, 122
 Arma 111, 139
 Armah, Ayi Kwei 440
 Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (Ghana) (AFRC) 234
 armed revolts 476
Armée de la Libération Nationale Algeria (ALN) 223
 Armstrong, Louis 483
 armies, precolonial 100, 112–13, 116, 124, 130, 135–6, 140, 142, 158–9, 470–1
 colonial 158–9, 162, 166, 175–6, 195–6, 473–4
 modern 223, 234–5, 266
 Aro 149, 198
 arrows 67–8, 287, 332
 art 80–1, 85–6, 91–2, 94, 97–8, 413–14, 418, 455, 472, 478
 art, tourist 432–3
 artisans 97, 197, 383, 447, 479
 arts 80, 116, 380, 401, 413–50, 455
 Arusha Declaration 255, 353
 Arusi people 81
 Asante 78, 148–9, 154, 158, 163, 208, 235, 334, 388, 406, 414, 423
 Ashanti, see Asante
 Ashanti Goldfields 335
 Asia 57, 89, 93, 95, 106, 117, 164, 459, 467
 iron 95
 trade, shipping 90–1, 93, 118, 154, 363, 374
 al-Ashraf Khalil 136
 Asia Minor 52, 469
 Asians 353, 376, 383, 475
 Askia Muhammad 132–3
 Asmara 167, 172
 ASP, see Afro-Shirazi Party (Zanzibar) 211
 Assab 167
 assassination 199, 216, 218, 223, 227, 229, 234, 237, 246–7, 250, 260
 Aswan 93, 273–4, 277, 285, 396, 467
 athletics 451, 455
 Atiman, Dr Adrien 393
 Atlantic Charter 195
 Atlantic Islands 143
 Atlantic ocean 33, 36, 41–2, 141
 Atlas Mts, High 51, 116
 Atlas ranges 33, 36, 38, 45, 48, 50, 100, 102, 160
 atomic energy 274, 335
 Augustine, St (of Hippo) 104, 108
 Aures Mts 102
 australopithecines 57–61
 'authenticity' 228, 256, 260
 Autochthonous Negro Party (Uruguay) 481
Autorité de Développement Intégré de la Région du Liptako-Gourma 462
 Avungara people 79
 Awash river, plain 120, 122, 124
 Awdaghast 115–16
 Awolowo, Obafemi 209, 246
 Awoonor, Kofi 440
 Axim 142
 Axis powers 186, 195, 197, 199
 Aybeg 116
 Ayn Jalut, battle 136
 Ayyubids 116, 136
 Azande people 78
 Azbi dist 106, 108, 111
 al Azhar Mosque 116
 Azikiwe, Nnamdi 181–2, 403

- Azores 143, 217, 465, 478
 Azzamur 141
 'Babu' (A. R. Mohamed) 212
 Bachama language 75
 Badagri 148
 Bagamoyo 128
 Bagaza, Jean-Baptiste 226
 Baggara (= Baqqara) people 79, 84
 Baghdad 113, 136, 470
 Baghirimi 470
 Bagirmi people 79
 Bahadur, Sultan 470
 Bailundu rebellion 165
 Bakari, Djibo 245
 Baker, Ginger 449
 Bakwe language 77
 Balewa, Sir Abubakar Tafawa 446
 Balogun, Ola 439
 Bamako 195, 395, 447
 Bamangwato people 86
 Bambara 75, 79, 83, 134, 148, 419, 432
 Bambuk 132
 Bamileke 79, 226, 428, 429
 Bamoun 428–9
 bananas 117, 128, 295, 372, 428
 Banda, Dr Hastings Kamuzu 214, 241
 Bandiagara escarpment 413, 429–30
 Bandung Conference 230, 467–8
 Bangui 451
 Bani River 132
 Banjul 234, 347
 banks 304, 369–71, 463
 European 70, 164–5, 168, 188, 220, 324
 nationalization 244, 258, 353
 Bantu Africa 97, 99, 125–30
 Bantu Education Act 215–16
 Bantu languages 74, 77, 118
 speakers, 73, 77–9, 81–4, 116, 125, 199, 252, 376, 478
 Bantu National Congress (Southern Rhodesia) 214
 Bantustans 215–16, 251–2, 286, 376, 460
 Banu Hilal 115
 Baoule, see Baule
 Baqqara, see Baggara
 Baraba 434
 Barbados 475, 478
 Barbarossa, 138–9
 Bardo, Treaty of 160
 Barghawata 116
 Baring, Sir Evelyn (Lord Cromer) 173
 Barotse, see Lozi
 Barrera, Angel (Gov.) 169
 Barth, Heinrich 151
 Barwe kingdom 128
 rebellion 166
 Barya-Kunaina people 106
 Basarwa 437
 Basotho National Party (Lesotho) 238
 Basotho Congress Party (Lesotho) (BCP) 238
 Basra 470
 al Bassi, Mohammed 243
 Bassa language 77
 Bassey, Hogan 'Kid' 451–2
 Bassiri, Mohammed 259
 Basutoland 171, 192, see also Lesotho
 Bata 169
 Bathurst 393, see also Banjul
 Bauchi 361
 Baule (= Baoule) 77, 79, 161, 420
 bauxite 150, 235, 281, 335–6, 342, 351, 372
 Baybars 136
 Bayi, Filbert 452
 BCP, see Basotho Congress Party (Lesotho)
 beads 72, 95–7, 107, 118, 128, 132, 141, 143–4, 414, 422
 Bechuanaland 171, 192
 Bechuana people, see Tswana
 Bedaue language 75
 Beduin people 78–9
 Begho 97
 Behanzin, king 161
 Beide Maryam 124
 Beier, Georgina 433
 Ulli 433
 Beira 190, 262
 railway 185, 261
 Beja 79, 105, 106, 108, 111
 Bekwarra language 77
 Belgian colonial rule 85, 164, 177, 184, 188–9, 205–6, 333
 Congo (later Zaire) 188–9, 194, 204, 206, 260, 265, 268, 311, 433
 investments 164–5, 261
 Ruanda, Urundi, 175, 183, 248
 Belgians 261, 395, 464
 Belgium 152, 164–5, 188, 195, 206, 463, 465
 Belgrade 468
 Bemba 77, 79, 130
 Benader Coast 118
 Ben Barka, Mehdi 243
 Ben Bella, Ahmed 198, 223
 Bendjedid, Chadli 223
 Benghazi 239, 451
 Benguela 128, 143, 149, 155
 railway 190, 262
 Beni Hasan tombs 91
 Benin art 97, 142, 413, 416–17
 city, kingdom 80, 97, 133, 142–3, 408, 413–4, 431–2, 436
 people (= Bini), see Edo
 Benin, Republic of 75, 77, 80, 86, 179, 224–5, 375, 395–6, 426, 432, 462–3
 Ben Khedda, Ben Jousef 223
 Ben Saleh, Ahmed 257
 Benue-Congo languages 77, 79, 81, 86
 Benue valley 36, 132, 361
 Béranger, Paul 242
 Berber language 75, 84, 100, 104, 116
 chieftains, princes 95, 104, 115
 people 79, 86, 112, 113, 115–16, 130, 131, 133, 179, 181, 190, 382, 390, 411
 Berlin Conference 157–8, 164, 172
 Berta language 75
 Beti, Mongo 431, 440
 Betsileo 83, 111, 120
 Betsimarakra people 83
 Beys (Algeria) 139
 Egypt 140
 Tunisia 139–40, 160, 179, 198, 257
 Biafada language 75
 Biafra 81, 209, 246, 391
 Bida 334
 Bie province (Angola) 224
 Bight of Benin 141, 147, 151
 Bigo 125
 Bijaya (= Bougie) 115, 138
 Bikila, Abebe 451
 Biko, Steve 252
 Bilal 469
 Bilma 38, 132
 Bilsen, Prof. von 260
 Bini (Benin), see Edo
 birds 52–3, 55, 56, 314
 Bisa language 77
 people 128
 Bismarck, O. von 157, 166
 Bissandugu 135
 Bizerta 257
 Blaawbank valley 58–9
 Black Africa 159, 175, 179, 217, 237, 242, 390, 431, 449, 459
 Black Africans 469, 474
 Black Americans 153, 172, 193–4, 205, 447–8, 450, 459, 464, 472–3, 477–84
 Black People's Convention (South Africa) 252
 blacksmiths 332, 337, 447
 Black Star Line 365, 484
 Blair, Henry 482
 Blake, Eubie 483
 blindness 310, 311, 394, 396
Bloc Démocratique Sénégalais 200–1
 Blue Nile 306, 469
 Blyden, Edward Wilmot 193
 Bobo people 79
 Boers 78, 130, 154, 155, 376, 383
 Boganda, Barthélémy 202, 227
 Bokassa Jean-Bedel (Emperor) 227–8, 266
 Boki language 77
 Bondu 133
 Bonelli, Capt, Emilio 168
 Bongo language 75
 Bonny 81
 Bontemps, Arna 483
 Bophuthatswana 'homeland' 252, 376, 379
 Borana people 81
 Bore, see Annaba
 Borgava 133
 Borgu 132–3, 158
 Bornu 81, 131–4, 140
 Botswana 33, 225, 268, 355–6, 372–3, 378, 395, 402, 437, 462
 language, people 77, 85–6, 287
 minerals 268, 281–2
 Botswana Democratic Party 225
 Botswana Independence Party 225
 Botswana National Front 225
 Botswana People's Party 225
 Bouabid, Abderrahim 243
 Bouaké 395
 Boucetta, Mohammed 243
 Bougie (= Bijaya) 115
 Bourmedienne, Houari 321
 Bourguiba, Habib 197–8, 257, 266
 boxing 451, 453
 BP (British Petroleum) 335–6
 Brass (city-state) 81, 413, 416
 brass 142, 147, 416, 432
 brass bands 437, 446, 455
 Brathwaite, Edward K. 478
 Brava 119
 Brazil 143, 145–6, 149, 151, 155, 190, 468, 478–80
 Brazilian slave traders 155
 Brazilian Negro Front 480
 Brazza, Savorgnan de 162
 Brazzaville 179, 196, 202, 394–5, 451
 Conference 195, 202, 463
 bricks, brickwork 90, 347, 428
 Brink, André 441
 Britain 374, 377, 463, 465, 474
 armies, expeditions 140, 155, 172–3, 195
 colonies 84–5, 157, 177
 nineteenth century 151, 153–4, 156, 182
 twentieth century 162, 163, 171, 177, 211, 213, 214, 262
 British Cameroons 202, 447
 Central Africa 184, 213, 358
 citizenship 250
 Commonwealth Empire 171, 216–17, 242, 269, 368, 484
 East Africa 183, 210, 311
 expansion 134, 140, 155, 163, 172–3, 195; Egypt 177, 230; Ethiopia 188, 204; Liberia 172; Togo-Cameroon 175
 High Commission Territories 171, 192
 West Africa 181, 207, 264, 358
 West Indies 475
 British influence, Madagascar 162
 North Africa 160, 239
 Somalia 250
 Southern Rhodesia 169
 Zanzibar 129
 British South Africa Company (BSAC) 163, 170, 184, 185, 192, 213, 261
 British trade, traders 146, 149, 151, 155, 165
Broederbond 216
 Broken Hill, see Kabwe
 Brong people 235
 bronze 91, 95–6, 416
 Bronze Age 91, 95, 413
 Brooke, Edward 483
 Broom, Robert 58
 Bruce, Blanche K. 483
 Brutus, Dennis 440–1
 BSAC, see British South Africa Company
 Bubangi people 130
 Budongo forest 54
 Buduma language 75
 Bugeaud, Marshal 160
 Buganda kingdom 128–9, 163, 184, 210–11, 257–8, 388, 409
 Buhen 93
 building materials 93, 148, 277, 278–9, 425–30
 Bukoba 410
 Bulawayo 130, 361
 Bunche, Ralph 484
 Bunyoro kingdom, Bunyoro-Kitara state 84, 125, 128
 Bure 132, 135
 bureaucracy 78, 383, 388
 Burma 195–6, 396
 Burundi (Republic) 85, 125, 226, 248, 287, 372, 462–3
 kingdom 175
 Bururi province 226
 Busa language 77
 Bushman language, people 81, 287, 413, 415, 422, 437, see also Khoisan
 Bushong people 82
 Busia, Dr Kofi 234–5
 Buthelezi, Gatsha 252
 Butiama 211
 'Butua' kingdom, see also Rozvi 128
 Byzantine Africa 104, 112, 115
 Egypt 112
 Byzantium, see Constantinople

- Canary Islands 52, 168
cane sugar 328
Cape (South Africa) 141, 149, 152,
155, 169, 170, 177, 203, 279,
296, 369, 376
Cape Bojador 141
Cape Coast 80, 145
Cape Coloureds 79, 82, 215, 252-3,
376, 411
Cape Delgado 144
Cape Province (South Africa) 40, 50,
53, 68, 79
archaeology, palaeontology 57-8,
65, 67, 68, 74, 97
modern 130, 192, 252, 393
Cape Town 149, 155, 365, 377
Cape Verde 141-3, 165, 218-19, 227,
236, 462
capital, capitalism 152, 162, 164, 169,
177, 179, 189, 206, 217, 219-20,
238, 265, 285, 304, 320-22,
325-6, 336, 339, 353, 369-70,
376-7, 383, 459-60
capital goods 346, 371, 374
capital-intensive technology 189, 325,
335
capital investment 273, 460
caravans 108-10, 121, 129, 141, 143,
149-50, 165, 469
Caribbean 146, 168, 194, 459, 467-8,
474-5, 477, 479-81, 484
Carter, Jimmy 465
Carthage 95, 100-4, 112, 130, 384
Carver, George Washington 482
Casablanca 160, 179, 196, 357, 359,
365, 394
cash-crops 185, 293, 297-8, 304, 307,
319, 326, 348, 368, 375, 477
cassava 72, 84, 128, 294-6, 308, 310,
319, 328, 341, see also manioc
caste 85, 479-80
Castro, Fidel 468
cattle 94-5, 129, 134, 140, 166,
291-2, 302, 396
cattle disease 172, 276, 291-2, 302
cattle keeping 71-4, 78-82, 85, 98,
105, 117-18, 125, 128-30,
290-4, 302
CEAO, see *Communauté
Economique de l'Afrique de
l'Ouest*
cement 337, 345, 347, 354, 428
Central Africa 33, 40, 42-3, 64, 69, 82,
429, 447, 449
Central Africa, nineteenth/twentieth
century 152, 154, 162, 165, 214,
308, 311, 316, 348, 477
nationalism 193-4, 211
Central African Empire 266
Central African Republic 75, 78-9,
227, 281, 361-2, 376, 462-3
colony 179, 202
Central Sudan 130-2
*Centre Maghrebien d'Etudes
Industrielles* 462
centres of learning, religious 113, 119,
122, 124, 384
cereals, cereal agriculture 72, 73, 328
Césaire, Aimé 194, 440, 478
Ceuta 138, 141, 168
CFA, see *Communauté Financière
Africaine*
Chad 228, 240, 262-4, 294, 304, 395-
6
colony 179, 202
economic 270, 274, 281, 349, 361-
2, 370, 372
language, people 75, 79
Chad basin 33, 36
Chad-Frolinat-Libya dispute 246
Chad National Liberation Front, see
Frolinat
Chadic language 75, 81
Chagga people 79, 427, 428
Chama Cha Mapinduzi Revolutionary
Party (Tanzania) 256
Chamba language 77
Chamber of Deputies (Ethiopia) 204,
232
Changamire state 144
Chaouen 190
Chaouia 160
Chari-Nile languages 75, 79, 84
chartered companies 163, 164, 166,
170
Charter of National Action (Egypt) 230
Cheops, see Khufu
Chephren, see Khafre
Cherchel (= Caesarea) 101
Chewa 83, 128-9, see also Marawi
chiefs 181-4, 207, 235, 263, 267,
368, 382, 409, 414, 428
Chifunise, Stephen 437
China, Chinese 57, 141, 212, 224,
231, 242, 262, 348, 393, 466-7,
495
Chipata 241
Chipembere H. B. M. 241
Chisiza, Yatuta 241
Chokwe people 82, 130, 413, 420-21
cholera 309, 311, 319, 395
Chopi people 445
Christian empires, kingdoms 78, 84,
106, 111, 115, 118-23, 137, 141,
144, 408, 411, 470
Christianity 78, 108, 110, 144, 162,
219, 390, 406, 408-10, 432
Christian mercenaries, North Africa
138, 139
captives 140
janissaries 138
Christian missions 152, 189, 193,
408-9, 446, 477
Christian-Muslim wars 472
Christians 79, 81-3, 86, 121, 209,
408-10, 469
chrome, chromium 185, 213, 281,
283, 372, 465
Church, Aksum 108
Congo-Zaire 106, 205
Egypt 108, 112-13
Ethiopia 121, 123, 144-5
North Africa 103, 119
Rwanda 248
Church Health Association 394
Church Missionary Society (CMS)
152-3
Churches Christian 392
Catholic 144-5, 231, 410
Coptic 408
'Ethiopic' 193
Greek 108
Syriac 109
United Methodist, Zimbabwe 263
Zionist 193
CILSS, see *Comité permanent inter-
Etats du Lutte contre la
Sécheresse du Sahel*
Cirta (= Constantine) 101, 139
Ciskei 'homeland' 252
cities 100, 102, 104, 284, 302, 381,
384-8, 447
citimukulu 79
citizenship 50, 100, 172, 179, 181, 203
city states 115, 118, 125, 128, 144,
148-9, 154
civil service 90, 153, 225, 237, 266,
383, 388, 435
civil war 256, 390
America 481-2, 484
Angola, Mozambique 128, 219,
224, 465-6
Ethiopia/South Arabia 110, 145
Nigeria 148, 246, 266, 285, 299,
384
Sudan 253-4
clan 80, 419, 428
Clark, J. P. 436
class 83, 86, 205, 237, 326, 377, 382-
4, 411, 447, 449, 460, 480
Cleopatra, queen 93
clerks 113, 194, 205, 383, 388, 411,
474
'click' languages 82
clients 112, 120, 125
climate 40-6, 48-9, 52, 74, 177, 278-
9, 294, 312, 328
droughts 165, 251, 258
and tourism 378, 380
cloth 95, 102, 107, 118, 132, 136, 137,
141, 143, 147, 226, 337
clothing 330, 332, 337, 373
cloves 129, 149-50, 184, 229
CMS, see Church Missionary Society
coal 165, 179, 225, 245, 261, 270,
274, 282-3, 336, 342
coastal areas, peoples 237, 408
coastal trade, markets 118, 143, 146-
7, 149, 150
cobalt 179, 260-1, 281, 283, 334, 372
cocoa 294, 297-8, 304-5, 316, 360,
368, 372, 388
Ghana 78, 163, 234, 300, 328, 375
other West Africa 163, 165, 190,
226, 257, 307, 328
cocoa farms plantations 169, 182,
208, 234, 248
coffee 146, 297, 316, 328, 368, 372,
388
Central Africa 164, 190, 217, 219,
224, 227, 328, 342
East Africa 29, 81, 183, 220, 303,
326, 328, 342, 373
Ethiopia 122, 342
West Africa 165, 226, 237, 257,
307, 328
Cohen, Sir Andrew 211
Coloe 106-7
colonial administration 163, 177-8,
189, 193, 219-20, 403, 408, 477
army 455
economy 177-8, 219-20, 320, 369
experience 436, 446
legacy 219-20, 347
medical services 394
period 361, 378, 386, 397, 460,
410, 456, 464, 466
policy, practice 163, 177-8, 187,
189, 320, 440
powers 159, 172, 195, 319, 388,
395
press 403
rule 269, 357, 383-4, 389, 409, 432
rulers 78, 163, 369
self-government 192
society 449
structure 264
Colonial Development and Welfare
programme 195
colonialism 293, 378, 404, 410, 465,
467-8
colonies, colonial states 159, 161,
163, 326, 383, 389
colonization 304, 411, 473
colons 'settlers' 178-9, 197-8
Colony, Sierra Leone 250
colour bar 185, 191-2, 206, 213, 376,
409, 469, 476
Coloureds, see Cape Coloureds
Comité de la Liaison Trans-Saharienne
463
Comité de l'Unité Togolaise 256
*Comité inter-Etats des Riverains du
Fleuve Sénégal* 462
*Comité permanent Consultatif du
Maghreb* 462
*Comité permanent inter-Etats du
Lutte contre la Sécheresse du
Sahel* (CILSS) 462
Comités Culturels et de Plein Air 402
commerce 92, 135, 240, 349, 384
commercial advertising 404
agriculture 220, 344, 348, 389
capital 163, 324
centres 446
felling, forestry 279
networks 135, 149, 164
penetration 153, 161
rivalry 100
ties 368
treaties 154
Common Man's Charter (Uganda)
257, 353
communalism 196, 235, 266, 388-90
*Communauté Economique de
l'Afrique de l'Ouest* 257, 358,
375, 462
Communauté Financière Africaine 358

- communications 130, 220, 240, 328,
349, 374-5, 380-1, 389, 412
communications media 403-5
communism, communists 195, 200,
230, 254, 264, 459-60
communist bloc 230, 240, 374, 467
Comoro Islands 53, 228-9
Conakry 201, 218, 236, 394
concessionary companies 162, 166
Condominium 173, 187
Conference of East and Central
African States 462
Conference of Ministers 461
Congo areas, rivers 65, 82, 152, 157,
162, 478-9
Basin 197
crisis 465
forests 97, 154, 445
Free State 155, 157, 164-6
lower 189, 205-6
Congo, French 164, 202
Congo Republic 48, 82, 179, 227, 229,
272, 280-3, 287, 334-5, 353,
358, 361, 372, 395, 405, 440,
Congo-Kinshasa, see Zaire
Conombo, Joseph 258
conquest 107, 135, 158, 161, 163, 193
Conseil Suprême de la République
(Burundi) 226
conservation 311-14
Constantine (city), see Cirta
Constantine, Emperor 103, 108, 111
Constituent Assembly (Nigeria) 247
Constitutional Reform Party (Egypt)
173
construction 90, 220, 349, 472
Conseil-Général (Senegal) 180-1
consuls 140, 151, 152, 154, 163, 166
consumer goods 220, 373-5, 388,
475
contract labour 238, 248
Conventional Basin of the Congo, see
Congo Basin
Convention People's Party (Ghana)
(CPP) 207-8, 234
conversion 119, 120, 123, 133, 143,
409, 412
Cook, Dr Albert 393
cooking 330, 337, 368, 394
cooperatives 223-4, 236, 257, 305,
317, 320, 330, 348
copper 96-7, 141, 190, 373, 384, 413,
416, 462
East Africa 99, 118, 280, 361
Egypt/Sudan 89, 91, 95, 342
North-West Africa 132, 280
southern Africa 128-9, 275, 280,
336
Zaire/Zambia 125, 135, 213-4, 220,
260-1, 274, 281, 334-6, 351,
372, 386
Copper Age 95
Copperbelt 79, 185, 205, 214, 281,
285, 348
Coptic language 108, 111
Church 108, 112, 115, 119, 408
Copts 110, 112-13, 123
Corisco Islets 169, 231
corporations 336, 338, 347
corruption 266, 328, 354, 383
in particular countries 226-7, 229,
234, 237, 239-40, 245, 247,
258, 260-1
corsairs 138, 140, 160
Cosmas Indicopleustes 109, 111
Cotonou 225, 395
cotton 146, 294, 297, 302, 308, 326,
388, 481-2
Egypt/Sudan 173, 254, 294, 297,
328, 342-3
Uganda 81, 85, 164, 184, 220, 303
other Africa 143, 185, 224, 226-7,
234, 372
cotton cloth, yarn 99, 334, 343-4, 413
cotton growing 184, 189, 217, 337,
413, 471
Council of Government (French Africa)
180
Council of Guinea 201
coups 266-7, 269
in particular African countries 199,
204, 207, 212, 223-36, 239-
46, 248, 250, 253-4, 260
Lisbon 219, 465
courts 133, 236, 368, 445
cowries 99, 145
CPP, see Convention People's Party
(Ghana)
crafts 70, 83, 90, 93, 96, 98, 316, 331-
4, 337, 367, 401, 472
craftsmen 81, 84, 89-90, 97, 330, 402
credit 330, 369-70
Creole people, Sierra Leone 77, 80,
153, 209, 250, 438, 459
Fernando Po 169
Guinea Bissau 165
Mauritius 242
Cromer, Lord (Sir Evelyn Baring) 173
crops 248, 275-7, 302, 342-3, 383,
400
Cross River 413
Cross River languages 77, 148
Crowther, Samuel Ajayi 153
Crusades 16, 115, 116, 136
Cuba 475, 477-8
slave trade 149, 151, 155, 475, 480
relations with Africa 167, 219, 224,
229, 231, 241, 245, 265-6
Cuima 361
Cullen, Countee 483
cultivation 69, 72-4, 105, 118, 122,
130, 136, 312
cultural activities 380, 455
change 446, 455
exchange 447
nationalism 193, 210, 448
cultures 283, 401, 445
currencies - cloth, shell 127, 333
currency 99, 147, 188, 212, 225, 234,
261, 315, 358, 369, 375, 462-3
Currency Boards 369-70
Cushitic languages, speakers 73, 75,
78-9, 81, 85-6, 105, 120-21,
124
customary law 267, 269, 411
customs duties 129, 147, 154, 212,
375
unions 227, 238, 318, 357-8, 375,
462
cyclones 305-6
Cyrenaica, classical 67, 69, 100-1,
103-4, 112
modern 167-8, 187, 199, 239, 469
Dabban 69
Dabola 347
Dacko, David 227-8
da Costa, Manuel Pinta 248
Dadié, Bernard 436
Dagaari language 77
Dagbani language 77
Dagomba (Dagbon) 80, 133, 138, 148
Dahlak Islands 111, 123
Dahomey 80, 148-9, 161, 372
colony 179-80
Republic, see also Republic of
Benin 224
Daima 46
Dakar, French 154, 161, 179, 181,
193, 196, 200-1, 249
post-colonial 380, 393-5, 431, 433,
451
Damascus 470
Damas, Léon 478
Damot state 105, 120-22
dams 275, 285, 301, 307
Danakil 78, 426
dance 71, 380, 434-6, 436-7, 443-4,
456, 480
dance-band music 447, 449, 455
Danes, 148, 151, 153
Dan language 75
Danquah, J. B. 181, 207-8
Dar es Salaam 196, 218, 262, 361-2,
365, 396, 404, 459
Dar Fertit 469
Darfur 75, 140, 469-70
Dar Runga 469
Dar Tichit 73
Dart, Raymond 58-9
da Souza family, Togo 257
Davies, William Broughton 393
Davis, Jefferson 482
Dawit II 122-3
Daza language 75
de Assis, Machado 480
De Beers 140, 190, 335
De Bono, General 187
Debre Damo 109, 121, 123
Debre Libanos 121, 123
debt 146, 160, 184-5, 322, 381
decolonization 202, 210-1, 217-18,
250, 336, 349, 358, 451, 459-60,
468, 474
de Gaulle, General 195, 198, 200, 202
Deir el Bahari 91-2
DELCO 336
Del Wambura 124
Democratic Party (Uganda) 211
Democratic Republic of the Congo,
see Congo Republic
Democratic Turnhalle Alliance
(Namibia) (DTA)
Dendi language 75
Denkyira 148
dependency (economic) 220, 320,
322, 337, 383, 463, 477
Derg 232
desert 42-3, 46, 50, 52-5, 69, 100,
102, 115-16, 242, 278, 284, 360,
380
desert edge 49, 98
desertification 293-4, 307, 328
Destour (Constitution) Party (Tunisia)
197-8
Deutsch, André 405
*Deutsche Gesellschaft zu
Erforschung Äquatorialafrikas*
152
*Deutsche Kolonialgesellschaft für
Südwestafrika* 166
Deutsch-Ostafrikanische Gesellschaft
166
development 195, 204, 208, 213,
219-20, 228, 304, 315-26, 369-
70, 438, 462
banks 370, 462-3
economics 320
Dey (Algiers) 139, 160
Dhlo-Dhlo (Zimbabwe) 99
Dhu Raydan 109
Diagne, Blaise 181, 193
diamond cutting 242
mining 170, 281, 335
diamonds 280-1, 334-5, 351, 372
South Africa 130, 155, 169, 280,
334, 377
other African countries 190, 211,
225, 227, 238, 250
Dias de Novais, Paulo 143
Dibango, Manu 449
Diégo Suarez 162
diet 310, 394-5, 481
Die Transvaal 216
Dikro 134
Dinguiray 134
Dinka 75, 80, 93, 429
Diocletian, Emperor 103
Diop, Mahjout 249
Diori, Hamani 245
Dire Dawa 122
Dir Somali 122
disease 177, 276-7, 284, 308-11,
319, 358, 395-6, 400
beliefs 391-2, 406
plant, animal 292, 304, 312
Diula (= Dyula) people 80, 83, 132-3,
135, 148
divination 79, 392, 407-8, 417
'divine' king 81, 85, 125
Djemaa, assembly of notables,
Western Sahara 260
Djerma language 75
Djibouti (Afar) 33, 75, 77, 167, 204,
229, 250
doctors 179, 319, 383, 391, 395, 417

Doe, Master Sergeant Samuel 239
Dogali battle 172
Dogon 77, 80, 429–30
domba 444
Dombo, king 128
domestic servants 90, 149, 388, 473, 479
Dominican Republic 477
do Nascimento, Abdias 480
Donatus, Donatists 103–4
Dongola battle 111
donkeys 71, 130, 360
Dorobo 287
Douala 227, 382
Douglass, Frederick 482
drama 436–9, 455–6
Dra valley 471
Drew, Charles 482
drinking water 275, 277
drought 147, 219, 225, 277, 284, 287, 292–4, 302, 305, 307–8, 358, 462
 see also Sahelian drought
drugs 396
drum music 437, 442–5
dry season 301–2, 425, 456
DTA, see Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (Namibia)
Du Bois, W. E. B. 194, 477, 483
Durban 252, 365, 377, 447
Dutch Antilles 474
 East Indies 149, 177
 West Indies Company 146
Dutch language 77, 146
 people 128, 130, 376
 settlers, South Africa 155
 shipping 145
 traders 129, 145, 149, 153, 164
Duval, Gaetan 242
dyeing 133, 333, 422
Dyola language 75
Dyula people, see Diula

Early Iron Age 73–4, 98–9, 430
Early Stone Age 59, 64, 67
earthquakes 305, 307
East Africa 264, 267, 302, 308, 328, 384–5, 390–2, 404, 411, 452
 arts 413–4, 423, 425, 427–8, 437–9, 440–1, 449
 British 163–4, 183–4, 210–12
 coast 78, 85, 109, 117, 119, 125, 127, 141, 146, 149, 154, 267, 408, 469
 expatriates 284, 383, 467
 First World War 175
 German, see German East Africa
 highlands 81, 177
 independence 194, 203
 industry, trade 348, 356, 369, 374
 lakes, interlacustrine area 48, 54, 70, 98, 128, 150, 361
 missionary activity 152
 Portuguese 44, 145, 165
 tourism, game 312, 314, 378–80
 trade 119, 150, 152

East Africa Protectorate (= Kenya) 163, 183
East African Common Services Organization 212, 462
East African Community 318, 358, 375, 379, 462
East African Currency Board 369
East African High Commission 212, 462
East Central Africa 154
eastern Africa 33, 41, 45, 48, 117, 312, 334, 409
Eastern Province, Tanganyika 211
Eastern Region, Nigeria 209, 246, 301
ECA, see Economic Commission for Africa
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) 328, 341, 359, 372, 461, 463
economic communities 357, 359, 462
Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries 462
Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) 257, 318, 358, 375–6, 462
economic benefit 378–80
 cooperation 462–3, 314–26
 development 171, 180, 205, 314–26, 382, 388, 461
 independence 241, 325, 351, 354
 policy 177, 462
 surplus 362
 system 383
ECOWAS, see Economic Community of West African States
Edea 226
Edo language, people 77, 79–80, 413
education 220, 264, 286, 305, 315, 319–20, 322, 328, 371, 382–3, 388, 390, 397–402
 Egypt, North Africa 168, 173, 179
 in Europe 472–4
 mission 408–9, 446
 South Africa, Central Africa 189, 213, 240, 248, 252, 263
 West Africa 153, 163, 181–2, 207, 218, 227, 247, 250
educational broadcasting, 404, 405
 publications 405
EEC, see European Economic Community
Efik people 81, 148
Efik-Ibibio language 77
Egypt, ancient 71–2, 89, 91, 93–5, 103–5, 112, 120, 384
 agriculture 140, 297, 303, 328, 330, 342, 372
 Christian 108, 110–11, 121
 industry 137, 318, 336, 338, 347, 373
 Islamic 110–16, 136
 miscellaneous 33, 153, 168, 267, 284–5, 395–6, 404–5, 487
 nineteenth century 156, 162–3, 167, 403
 Ottoman 139, 152–3, 156, 162, 171, 173

Roman 106–7
 resource 270, 275, 281–3, 339
 twentieth century 175, 186, 199, 200, 230–1, 362, 369, 378–80, 459, 462, 466–71
Egypt/Sudan relations 84, 93, 105, 155, 171, 199, 23, 240
Egziabeher, god 109
EIC, see *Etat Independent du Congo*
E. K.'s Band 449
Ekwensi, Cyprian 440, 441, 456
elders 267, 408, 434
elections 197, 246, 250, 256, 388, 390, 483
electricity 155, 244, 270, 272–4, 388, 456
electronics 242, 318, 354
Eleni, Empress 124
elephants 52, 54, 103, 150, 150, 311, 312, 314
elites 150, 158, 193, 220, 264, 333–4, 380–4, 432, 473, 480
 North Africa, Egypt 179, 187
 East and Central Africa 127, 265, 285
 West Africa 182–3, 200, 209, 235, 286
 southern Africa 213, 447
 colonial 154, 176, 446, 448
 ruling 351, 403
 urban 377, 390, 403–4
Elizabethville, see Lumbumbashi
Ellington, Duke 483
Elmina 80, 142, 145, 408
Elobey Island 169
emancipation 473, 477, 480, 482
emigration 151, 159, 227
emirates 81, 134, 411
empires 79, 100–1, 113–16, 140, 148, 227, 266
 Ethiopia 78, 105, 107, 120–4
 medieval Sudanic 83, 85, 96, 130–2
employment 267, 303, 322, 325, 338, 343, 348–9, 381–2, 386, 388, 400, 402
Enarya kingdom 105
'enclave' economies 335, 347
energy 270–4, 283, 304, 320, 356
Engel's Law 341
England 334, 453, 472, 475
English 276, 403, 481
 companies 145, 148, 168
 language, law 77, 226, 234, 267
entertainment 404–5, 414, 443, 455
entrepôt 138, 144, 154
entrepreneurs 149, 353, 354, 383
environment 294, 306, 426
Enwonwu, Ben 433
Equatorial Africa, French, see French Equatorial Africa
Equatorial Guinea 231, 462
Equatorial zone 40, 42–3, 45, 48–9
Eritrea 86, 105–6, 120–21, 123–4, 167, 172, 187, 199, 204, 232–3
Eritrean Liberation Front 232
erosion, see soil erosion

Esie 413
Eskender, Emperor 124
Etat Independent du Congo (EIC), see Congo Free State
Ethiopia 69–70, 121–4, 137, 144–5, 150, 152, 155, 204, 210
 agriculture etc 71–3, 287, 292, 294, 297, 303
 culture 330, 413, 426–7, 433
 drought 311, 388
 Islam 111, 469–71
 Italy 162, 184, 194, 204
 North, North-East 61, 119, 122
 other states 459–60, 462, 465
 peoples 78, 81, 85–6
 physical 33, 36, 38, 41, 306–9
 post-1945 232, 265, 269–70, 272, 349, 362, 395–6, 408–9, 451–2
 resources 52, 274, 279–80, 372
 Somalia, Eritrea 204, 228, 264, 266
 South, South-West 60, 108
Ethiopian government 307
Ethiopic language, script 75, 106, 108, 158
ethnicity, ethnic groups 78–86, 193, 219, 382, 384, 388–90, 406, 475–6
Etienne, Eugène 162
Europe 36, 45, 57, 61, 65, 69, 71, 378–80, 395, 477
 economic 81, 128–9, 138–40, 145–6, 151, 163, 184, 318, 333–7, 374
 political 140, 143, 187
 cultural 445, 482
 North African 140, 160
 Ethiopia 124
 South Africa 128
European Economic Community (EEC) 202, 227, 232, 242, 335, 357–9, 374, 464, 468
Europeans 79, 113, 138, 141, 159, 229, 362, 384, 403
 merchants 138, 140–1, 163, 220, 369
 settlers, farmers 130, 151, 160, 164, 171, 183, 210, 215, 220, 325, 475
 labour force 205
Eusebio 453
Ewe, Ewe-Fon languages, people 77, 80, 133, 235, 256, 423
 Eweland, Ewe unification 157, 256
Ewondo-Fang language 77
Ewostatewos, Abba 123
exchange 292, 307, 326, 367, 369
Executive Councils 182, 207–9
exile 198, 204, 227, 229, 231, 241, 249, 254–5, 258, 260, 404
exploitation 220, 285, 463
exploration 129, 141, 151–2, 161, 164, 168–9, 172, 190, 336, 351
export credits 324
 crops 184, 275, 320, 326, 328, 330, 369, 372
 economy 164, 245, 321

industry 167, 339, 371
 processing 242, 337
exporters 358
exports 163, 280, 294, 320, 339, 342, 346, 361, 371–2
extended family 301, 381, 387, 482
Exxon 335
Eyadema, General Gnassingbe 256
Ezana, king 109

Faal, Louis 451
factories, factory workers 338–9, 349, 386, 455, 465, 482
faith-healing 392–3
Falasha 'outsiders' 123
Faleme 132
Fali language 77
family 267, 269, 284, 300–1, 381–2, 386, 409, 411, 481
famine 115, 166, 172, 217–19, 307–8, 388, 394, 396
Fang (= Pangwe, Pahouin) people 80, 190, 431
Fanon, Frantz 265
Fante (= Fanti) 80, 148, 235
Faras 110
Far East 136, 141, 144–5, 195
farmers 79–86, 106, 120, 125, 128, 163–4, 184, 194, 211, 307–8, 434
farms, farming, see also agriculture
 48, 160, 168, 179, 214, 301, 317, 337, 356
Farouk, king 200
Fashoda expedition 158, 162
el-Fassi, Allal 196, 243
FASU, see Federation of African University Sports
Fatimids 114–16, 470
Faidherbe, Louis 154
fauna 52–6, 314
Fauset, Jessie 483
Faranah 201
Fayum 57, 72
Fazughli 119
Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros 229
Federation (Central African) 214
Federation of African University Sports 451
female labour 190
fencing 302
Fernando Po (Macias Nguema Byogo) 169, 231
fertilizer 304, 317, 322, 328, 329
Fes 113, 137–40, 160, 179, 196, 333
 Treaty 161
Festac 380, 431, 455–6
Fetu 142
feudalism 84, 254, 292
Fezzan 95, 100, 102, 114, 132, 140, 199, 239
FIDES, see *Fonds d'Investissement et de Développement Economique et Sociale*

film 437, 439, 456
finance 153, 173, 349, 369–70
fire 49, 63, 96, 278, 312
firearms 129, 134, 143–4, 149
First World War, see World War, First
fish 56, 148, 259, 413, 462
fishermen 81–2, 84, 95, 132, 303, 434
fishing 69, 72–3, 81, 89, 118, 165, 249, 287, 292, 295, 303
FLN, see *Front de Libération Nationale* (Algeria)
'flood retreat agriculture' 275, 306
floods 305–6
FNLA, see *Frente Nacional de Libertação de Angola*
Fonds d'Investissement et de Développement Economique et Sociale 195, 202
Fon people 80, 161, see also Ewe
food 130, 220, 240, 278–9, 287, 302, 304, 326, 358, 367, 372, 375
 crops 128, 270, 304–5, 330, 342, 476
 imports 227, 233–4, 249, 261, 286, 305, 328, 330, 373
 processing 236, 238, 356, 373
 production 69–73, 106, 236, 238, 254, 262, 308, 317, 320–22, 326, 328;
 for Europe 151, 171
 for war 175, 186, 196
 subsidies, aid 231, 245, 258, 289
football 451, 453, 456
Force, Charles L. 403
forced labour 162, 175, 180–1, 195, 203, 348, 386
Force Publique (police, Congo) 205–6
foreign aid 277, 323
foreign exchange 322, 328, 370–1, 379, 388
 particular countries 227, 230, 233–4, 238, 250, 261–2, 343
foreign firms 354, 383
foreign indebtedness 153, 172, 220, 260
foreign investment 230, 236, 241, 322, 324–5, 338, 351, 371, 377
forest products 127, 277, 342
forestry 49, 279, 361, 342
forests 48–9, 69, 70, 73, 96, 98, 132, 148, 164, 226, 270, 275, 277–80, 314, 379, 407, 479
Fort Jesus, Mombasa 144
Fort Lamy 196
Fort Ternan, Kenya 57
Fourah Bay College 153
France 100, 151, 195, 197, 265, 335, 394, 463–4, 465, 472, 475
 and Africa 162, 177, 202, 228, 378–9
 and North Africa 138, 140, 153–4, 160–1, 178–9, 196–8, 223–4
 and Tropical Africa 161–2, 172, 175, 180–1, 188, 200–2, 230, 235, 241
Africans 193, 230, 304, 451, 472, 474

trade with Africa 145–6, 148–9, 155, 334, 374
Indian Ocean sugar islands 129, 149, 247, 475
Franco, General 190, 243, 260
Francoist Spain 259–60
Franco-Mauritian people 242
Francophone Africa, Africans 193, 194, 201, 264, 360, 440, 451, 456
 countries, zone 201, 249, 351, 357, 370, 460, 463, 464
Franco-Spanish expedition, West Sahara 259
Franco-Spanish treaties 168
Franc Zone 257, 358, 370
Freedom Charter of South Africa 215, 217
freed slaves 152, 162, 239, 464, 477
Free French 195, 202–3
Free Officers Movement (Egypt) (Society of Free Officers) 200, 230
Freetown 80, 153, 181, 193, 205, 209, 250, 393, 408, 447, 454
free trade 157, 177, 462
Frelimo, see *Frente de Libertação de Moçambique*
French Africa 157, 161–3, 166, 169, 172, 180–1, 449
 aid, development funds 202, 203, 257
 bases 203, 247, 249
 capital 245
 citizenship 160
 colonial troops 159, 162
 Equatorial Africa (FEA) 162, 179, 195, 202, 207, 264, 338
 expansion 134–5, 153, 157–8, 160–1, 190, 333, 464
 Federations 179–80, 202, 249, 258
 language 77, 181, 226, 403, 439
 North Africa 167–8, 178–9, 195
 settlers, Madagascar 203; North Africa, see *colons*; Réunion 247; South Africa 376
 Somaliland 167
 Soudan (later Mali) 179, 241
 West Africa 161–2, 179, 195, 200–1, 207, 236, 242, 264, 311, 358
French Union 202
'French Community' 202
Frente de Libertação de Moçambique (Frelimo) (Mozambique Liberation Front) 218–19, 244, 256
Frente Nacional de Libertação de Angola (FNLA) 219, 224, 465
Frente Popular para la Liberación de Sakiet el Hamra y Rio de Oro, see *Polisario*
Frolinat (Chad National Liberation Front) 228
Front de Libération Nationale (FLN) 198, 223, 266, 466–7
Front pour la Défense des Institutions Constitutionnelles (Morocco) (FDIC) 243

fruit 279, 280, 328, 362, 372
Frummentius 108–9
Fugard, Athol 437, 439
Fula language 75, 133
Fulani (= Fulbe, Peul) people 81, 86, 133–4, 148, 291–3, 382, 391, 422
Fulbe, Fulfulde, Peul, see Fulani
funduq 'hotel-warehouse' 138
Funj 119
Fur language 75
Fustat 112, 114–5
Futa Jalon 69, 133–4, 148, 161, 292
Futa Toro 133–4

Gabon 149, 155, 162, 179, 202, 233, 287, 380, 393
 foreign relations 227, 231, 249, 462–3, 467
 resources 272–3, 280–3, 324, 334–5
 trade, industry 347, 361–2, 368, 371–2
Gadabursi clans 122
Ga, Ga-Adangme people, language (Gã) 71, 81, 133, 235, 407, 447
Galabat 172
Galla (= Oromo) people 81, 105, 232, 309
Gambia River 46, 132, 141, 143, 147, 360, 396
 Colony 75, 154, 163
The Gambia 85–6, 207, 209, 233–4, 307, 347, 379–80, 462
 agriculture 297, 302, 328, 372
 health 310, 393, 395
game parks, reserves 287, 311, 314, 379–80
Ganda 77, 81, 84–5, 210, 385
Gande, Oumarou 439
Ganga, Jean Claude 452
Gao 85, 96, 114, 131–3, 384
Garamantes 95, 100–2, 130
Garoua 361
garrisons 122, 124, 164, 237, 446
Garvey, Marcus 194, 477, 480, 483
Gaza kingdom 130
Gazankulu 'homeland' 252
Gbagla language 77
Gebre Mesqel 110–1
Gedi tombs 118
Geez (= Ethiopic) language, script 106, 108, 111, 121
General People's Congress (Libya) 240
general strike 198, 213, 245, 249
Geneva Conference (Rhodesia) 263
geology 33–8
German Colonial Company for South West Africa (*Deutsche Kolonialgesellschaft für Südwestafrika*) 166
German colonies 156, 166–7, 175, 183
 expansion 152, 154, 163, 166
German East Africa 159, 163, 166–7, 175, 184

German East Africa Company (*Deutsche-Ostafrikanische Gesellschaft*) 166
 Germany 151–2, 156, 161, 166, 173, 195, 199, 384, 413, 474
 Gezira irrigation 48, 187, 306, 342
 Ghana, mediaeval, ancient 83, 85, 97, 114–16 131–3, 470
 Ghana, modern republic 75–8, 80–1, 164, 207–8, 234–5, 266, 394–6, 405–7, 451
 agriculture 73, 297, 300, 302, 326, 328, 330
 cultural 334, 343–4, 437, 440, 447–9
 external relations 357, 459, 462–3, 466–8
 Nkrumah 230, 265, 321, 354
 resources 270, 272–3, 280, 303, 335
 social 159, 381, 409, 414
 trade and industry 96–7, 338, 347–51, 353–4, 361–2, 365, 372, 375
 Gildo 104
 giraffe 55, 312
 Gisaka 128
 Giscard d'Estaing, President 236
 Gisenyi 248
 Gishen monastery 122–4
 Gitarama 248
 Giza near Cairo 90
 Gladstone, W. E. 157
 glass 99, 102, 107, 144, 334, 347
 Glass and Grant 447
 gmelina 278
 goats 71–2, 165, 238, 292, 302, 427
 goat-skins 302, 333
 Gobedra near Aksum 73
 Gobir 132, 134
 Gofa language 75
 Gola language 75
 gold 280, 372, 475, 479
 East Africa 99, 118–9, 144, 384
 Egypt 89, 94, 140
 Ethiopia 109
 South Africa 155, 169, 190, 280, 377
 West Africa 95, 103, 114–16, 132–3, 139, 141, 143, 148, 280, 334–5, 351, 411
 Zimbabwe 127, 185, 213, 280
 Gold Coast 141–3, 147–8, 153–5, 163, 182, 193, 207, 219, 264, 403–4, 468
 Golden Stool (Asante) 78
 goldfields 97, 121, 128, 132, 148, 169, 191
 gold-mines, mining 98, 128, 146, 148, 169, 190, 252, 386, 471, 477
 gold trade 97, 111, 116, 119, 125, 128, 132–3, 138, 141, 144, 149, 384
 Gondar 188
 Gonja people, state, 80–1, 133, 148
 Gordianus, Emperor 103
 Gordimer, Nadine 441
 Gordon, General C. 164
 Gorée 161, 181, 393
 Gorst, Sir Eldon 173
 Gouled, Hassan 220
 government 265–7, 324, 370, 403
 Gowon, Lt.-Colonel Yakubu 246
 Graduates General Congress (Sudan) 187, 199
 grain 100–2, 112, 118, 140, 160, 292–3, 295, 307, 319
 Granada 116, 138, 141
 Grande Comoro see Ngazidja 228
 grass, grasslands 49, 52, 54, 68, 73, 125, 296, 302, 312
 Graziani General (Viceroy) 188
 grazing 72, 130, 204, 291–2, 294
 Great Depression 156, 183–4
 Great Lakes/Swahili coast 84
 Great Zimbabwe 18, 99, 116, 127, 170, 384, 413
 Greece, Greeks 93, 95, 100–2, 104, 107–9, 111, 115, 140, 376, 408, 472
 Greenberg, J. H. 74–5
 Green Revolution 305
 Gregory, exarch 112
 Griqualand 155
 West 169
 Grillo, Yusuf 433
 Grillo, Yusuf 433
 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) 280, 303–4, 315, 328, 376
 Gross National Product (GNP) 315, 335, 338, 358, 399
 groundnut oil 154, 338, 373
 groundnuts 153–4, 219, 249, 295, 297–8, 308, 328, 338, 342, 360, 388
 Gambia 154, 204, 328, 360, 372
 Guinea-Bissau 154, 236
 Nigeria 333, 338, 342
 Senegal 154, 300, 303, 328, 338
 'groundnuts', Bambara, Hausa 72
 ground nut scheme 275
 Group Areas Act 215
 Grunitsky, Nicolas 256
grupos dinamizadores (dynamizing groups) 244
 Guedira, Ahmed Reda 243
 guerrillas 159, 197, 202, 210, 218–19, 224, 226, 232, 243–5, 251, 262, 263
 Guéye, Lamine 200
 Guggisberg, Sir Gordon 181
 Guillén, Nicolás 477–8
 Guinea 45, 48–9, 75, 82–3, 133, 235–6, 265–6, 269, 321, 379
 agriculture 297, 317
 industry 325, 338, 347, 351, 353–4
 resources 274, 281, 335
 external relations 357–8, 374, 460, 462–4, 466–7
 colonial 155, 161, 201–2
 Guinea-Bissau 75, 154, 165, 217–19, 227, 236, 265, 321, 462, 464
 Guinea Coast 100, 141, 149
 Guinea, Portuguese, see Guinea-Bissau
 guitar, guitar bands 446–7, 449
 Gulf of Aden 120, 163
 Gulf of Guinea 141, 168
 gum 148
 gunpowder 165
 guns 138, 147, 150, 158
 Guraghé language 106
 Gur language, see also Voltaic 79, 80, 84, 85
 Gurma language 77
 Guyana, Guyanese 195, 475–8
 Gwandu 134
 Gwari 435
 Gwede, Focus 241
 Habshi 469
 Habte-Weld, Aklilu 232
 Habyarimana, General Juvenal 248
 Hadar 61
 Hadith (Sayings of the Prophet) 113, 116
 Hadza 77, 287–8
 Hafsid 116, 137–8
 Haile-Maryam, Maj. Mengistu 232
 Haile Selassie, Emperor 187–8, 195, 204, 232, 265
 Haiti 475, 477–8, 482
 Al-Hajj Umar 134, 161
 Al Hakim, Tewfik 438
 Hallilu, Adamu 439
 Hamdallahi 134
 Hamilcar Barca 101
 'Hamitic' languages 75
 Hammadids 115
 Hannaf 267
 Hannibal 101
 Hanno 100
 Haoulti 106
 Haquedin II 122
Harakat Tahrir Saguiet El-Hamra wa Oued Ed-Dahab 259
 Harar 73, 120, 122, 204
 Harari language 106, 120
 Harper, Peggy 436
 Hassanien, Mohammed 451
 Hassan I, Sultan (Morocco) 160
 Hassan II, king 243, 260
 Hathor, goddess 91
 Hatshepsut, queen 92
 Hava Fteah 67–9, 72, 125
 Hausa language, people 75, 81, 132, 246, 411, 471
 arts 333, 413, 429–30, 439
 states 132, 134, 140, 148, 446
 Hawiya Somali people 119
 al-Hayqutan 471
 Head, Bessie 441
 health, health care 181, 218, 220, 276, 309–11, 315, 390–6, 402, 408–9, 474
 Hearne, John 478
 heavy industry 223, 342–3, 345–6, 371
 Hehe people 81
 Hejaz 110
 Hellenistic culture 384
 Henderson, Fletcher 483
 herbalists 391, 393
 herdsman 73–4, 81, 83, 85–6, 98, 125, 128, 130, 211, 312, 395
 Herero people 81, 159, 166, 175
 Hertzog, J. B. M. 192
 hides 133–4, 141, 302, 342–3
 High Commissioner (Egypt) 173
 French (Dakar) 180
 higher education 397, 399, 463
 High God 392, 406
 highlife 435, 447–9
hijra 134, 159
 Hinton, William A. 482
 Hippo = Annaba, (Bone) 104
 hippopotamus 52, 54, 312
 Hittites 92
 Hoare, Sir Samuel 188
 hoes 96, 99, 330, 332, 337, 366
 Hofrat en Nahas 342
 Hoggar 33, 36, 50, 62, 102
 Holland, see also Dutch 151, 216, 472–5
 Holt, John (Company) 182
 Holy Apostles of Aiyetoro 303
 Holy Ghost Fathers (= *La Congrégation du St Esprit*) 152
 Holy Land 136
 Holy places, Islam 137
 holy men 114, 116, 119, 139
 holy war 116, 120, 138, 148, 411
 'Homelands' (= Bantustans) 215, 245, 251–2, 253, 376–7, 379
 Home, Lord 263
Homo, hominids 33, 57–62, 64–5, 67, 69–70
 Hong Kong 439, 454, 456
 Hope Waddell Institute 393
 Horn of Africa, see also Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea 46, 70, 75, 94, 105, 124, 204, 254, 307–8, 466, 469
 horses, horsemen 95, 116, 119, 124, 130–2, 136, 141, 415
 Horton, J. Africanus 153, 393
 hospitals 319, 391, 393–4
 hotels 353, 378–9
 Hottentot language, people, see also Khoisan 77, 81
 Houphouët-Boigny, Félix 200–1, 237, 265
 House of Representatives 483
 House of Tekle Haymanot 123
 House of Ewostawos 123
 houses, housing 286, 330, 349, 353, 388, 390, 425–30, 474
 Hova people, see Merina
 Huambo 224
 Huggins, Godfrey (Lord Malvern) 185, 213–14
 Hughes, Langston 483
 Huguenots 149
 human development 57–74
 hunter-gatherers 68–71, 74, 81, 84, 98, 275, 284, 287–9, 445
 hunters, hunting 67, 69, 85, 95, 105–6, 118, 155, 287, 314, 415, 434
 Husaynids (Tunis) 139
 Hussayn Kamil, Sultan 173
 Hussein, Ebrahim 437, 438
 Hutu people 85, 226, 248, 382
 hydro-electricity 219, 226, 261, 270, 272–4, 277, 281, 285, 307
 hydrology 45
 'Hyksos' kings 91–2
 Ibadan 49, 86, 305, 391, 394–5, 422
 Ibadites 114–15
 Iberian peninsula, see also Spain, Portugal 95, 138, 141, 472
 Ibero-Maurusian 69–70
 Ibiam, Dr. Akanu 393
 Ibibio people 81, 413
 Ibn Battuta 118–19
 Ibn Misjah 471
 Ibn Shikla 470–1
 Ibn Tumart 116
 Ibn Yasin 116
 Ibo people see Igbo
 Ibrahim ibn al-Aghlab 113
 Ibrahim ibn Shikla 470
 ICU, see Industrial and Commercial Workers' Union of Africa
 ideologies 264–5
 Idoma language 77
 Idris, Idrisids 113
 Idris Aloma 132
 Idris, king (Sayyid Idris al-Mahdi al-Sanusi) 199, 239
 Ifat 122
 Ife 86, 97, 413, 415–16
 Ifni 168, 190
 Ifriqiya 112–16, 137–8
 Igala 334
 Igbo (= Ibo) language, culture 77, 414, 439
 people 81, 143, 148–9, 154, 209, 246, 381
 Igbo-Ukwu 96–7, 130, 413, 416
 Ijaw, see Ijo
 Ijebu 382
 Ijo language, people (= Ijaw) 77, 81, 148, 434, 436
 Ikere-Ekiti 424
 Ikhshidid dynasty 114–15, 471
 Ilaje 303
 Ile de France (= Mauritius) 129
 Ilesha 394
 Ilorin 134–5
 imam, imamate 115, 134, 135
 Imbangala 149
 Imerina monarchy 162
 IMF, see International Monetary Fund
 Imhotep 90
 immigration 169, 171, 185, 213, 217, 233, 473, 480
 Immorality Act (South Africa) 215
 imperialism 155, 199, 459, 463–5, 477
 import-export companies 182
 imports 280, 294, 333, 334, 336, 346, 358, 367, 373
 import substitution 318, 338, 342, 346, 351, 373
 income 302, 315, 321, 335, 354, 369, 376, 384, 387
 income tax 212, 263, 304, 462
 independence 193–4, 202–3, 206–9, 211, 213, 224, 465, 477
 struggle 193–4, 197–200, 211, 213, 218, 256, 403, 438, 461, 463
 Independent Churches 194, 408–9
 independent schools 194
 India 115, 117, 141, 144, 177, 467–9, 475, 482
 Indian Ocean 26, 163, 203, 247, 306, 380, 465
 Indian Ocean trade 114, 117, 128, 138, 140–1, 149, 384, see also slave trade
 Indian people 79, 154, 183–4, 190, 211, 215, 253, 376, 411, 467, 479
 indigo 141, 143, 146, 414, 422
 indirect rule 135, 164, 167, 177, 183, 193, 267, 447
 Indo-Mauritian 242
 Indonesia 77, 475
 industrial activity 315, 318, 338
 areas 179, 447
 investment 324
 location 339, 346–8
 products 280
 Industrial and Commercial Workers' Union of Africa (South Africa) (ICU) 192, 194
 Industrial Conciliation Act (Rhodesia) 184
 Industrial Development Corporations 353
 industrialization 234, 286, 318, 336–46, 348, 370, 375, 384–6, 461
 limited 233, 238, 240, 286, 316
 South Africa 191, 377, 383
 Industrial Revolution 151, 384
 industrial workers 189, 341
 industry 151, 318, 383–4, 474
 infant and child mortality 277, 284, 309, 388
 infectious disease 309–10
 infertility 310
 inflation 196, 231, 234, 241, 247, 262, 328, 346, 370–1, 373, 379
 information 368, 404
 infrastructure 224, 238, 286, 307, 320–22, 325, 336, 346–8, 351, 354, 405
 Inga hydro-electric scheme 261, 274
 Ingombe Ilede 99, 127
 inheritance 267, 269, 411
 initiation 413, 419, 444
 insurance 244, 292, 353
 Intermediate Technology (IT) 354–5
 Intermediate Technology

Development Group (ITDG) 354–6
 International African Association 152
 international agencies 358, 388, 396
 International Commission on Education 402
 International Court of Justice 260
 International Development Association 370
 International Finance Corporation 370
 International Institute of Tropical Agriculture 305
 International Livestock Centre 294
 International Monetary Fund (IMF) 234, 261, 371
 International Olympic Committee 452
 International Standard Industrial Classification 341
 International Telecommunication Union 405
 International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) 311
 intolerance 409, 412
 invasion 115, 155, 160, 162, 168, 194, 203, 225, 229–30, 235, 256, 258
 investment 320–21, 342, 351, 370, 377, 388, 462–3, 465
 agriculture 302, 304–6, 383
 mining 336, see also foreign investment
 Investment Policy Decrees 353–4
iqta ('fief') 136
 Iraq 112–15, 469
 Iraqw 75, 422
 iron 92, 106–7, 118, 233
 mines 242, 250–1
 ore 239, 282, 332, 335–6, 342, 361–2, 365, 372
 iron and steel industry 213, 339, 345, 361, 373
 Iron Age 70, 94–7, 125
 bars 109, 141, 147, 330, 332
 bells 125, 128
 objects 98
 tools 95, 99
 iron working 83, 94–6, 98–99, 117, 125, 130, 132, 332, 413, 415
 Ironsi, Major-General J. I. Aguiy 246
 irrigation 274–5, 277, 285, 294, 297, 302, 306, 311, 317
 East Africa, Ethiopia 79, 117, 317
 Nile Valley 48, 90, 173, 187, 275, 297
 North Africa 102, 240
 Isaac, Glynn 60
 Isandhlwana battle 158
 Islam 80, 97, 133–5, 141, 406, 410–12, 432, 445–6, 469–71
 spread 78, 112–16, 119–20, 132–3, 150, 154, 384, 432
 North Africa 79, 196, 380, see also Muslims
 Islamic brotherhoods 389–90
 Islamic expansion 411
 Islamic influence 80, 97, 150, 154, 446
 Islamic law, learning 133, 267, 411, 469
 Islamic socialism 269
 Ismail al-Azhair 199
 Ismail, Khedive 153
 Isoma 392
 Israel 240, 460, 468
 Israel/Egypt wars 200, 230–1
 Israeli-occupied territories 404
 Israel–Uganda relations 258
 Issas people 229
 Istanbul 139–40, 471
Istiqlal (Independence) party, Morocco 197, 243
 IT, see Intermediate Technology
 Italian colonies 167, 175, 187
 Italian Somaliland 268
 Italians 136, 171–2, 395
 Italo-German invasions, Egypt 195
 Italy 100, 138, 175, 187, 195, 250, 303, 472
 and the Horn 187–8, 194–5, 204, 265
 and Tunisia 160
 ITDG, see Intermediate Technology Development Group
 Iteso people, see Teso
 Ituri 165, 287
 IUCN, see International Union for the Conservation of Nature
 ivory carving, objects 89, 125, 154, 413, 416
 poaching 314
 trade Congo 162, 164
 East and Central Africa 107, 118, 128–30, 144, 149–50, 154, 227, 384
 Egypt 93–4
 Sahara 95, 102–3, 133
 West Africa 141, 148
 Ivory Coast 48, 77–9, 88, 135, 161, 236, 351, 378–80, 383, 396, 405
 arts 414, 432–3, 436
 colony 179, 181
 economic 272, 279, 281, 283, 297, 328, 337–8, 348, 362, 372–3, 375
 external relations 358, 461–3
 independent 200, 202, 228, 236, 237
 Iwo Eleru 69–70, 73
 Iyasu 204
 Iyesus Moa 122–3
 al-Jahiz 471
 Jalonke 134
 Jamaica 146, 153, 281, 450, 476–8
 James, C. L. R. 478
 Jameson, L. S. 171
 Jameson Raid 171
 Jamestown 407
 Jan Hofmeyer School of Social Studies 218
 Janjero kingdom 105
 Janjira 470

- Japan 141, 195, 203, 245, 303, 335, 337, 339, 374, 379
 Javouhey, Ann Marie 393
 Jawara, Dauda 209, 233–4
 Jawhar 115
 jazz 447, 483
 Jebel Irhoud, Morocco 67
 Jebel Uweinat 70
 Jellud, Major Abd al-Salam 240
 Jemaa 415
 Jema river 105
 Jenne 132–4, 148
 Jerusalem 111, 115–16, 121, 231, 471
 Jesuits, Ethiopia 145
Jeunesse Révolutionnaire Rwagasore (Burundi) 226
Jeux Inter-Africains 451
 Jews 103, 108–11, 123, 143, 160, 408, 469, 472
 jihads 81, 133–4, 148, 411, 469
 Jinja 347
 Jipcho, Ben 452
 Johannesburg 58, 169, 171, 191, 379, 447, 465
 Johnson, Lyndon B. 465
 Jolof 86, 147
 Jonathan, Chief Leabua 238–9
 Jones, Alfred 369
 Jones, Eldred 441
 Jones, Eugene K. 483
 Jos Plateau 63, 75, 96, 332, 415
 Juba river, basin 118, 204
 Jugurtha 101
 Jukun language 73, 77
 Jukunoid language 77
 Juno, goddess 102
 Justinian, Emperor 104, 108, 110
- Kaarta kingdom 79, 134, 148
Kabaka 81, 210–1
Kabaka Yekka party 258
 Kabao 427
 Kabwe (Broken Hill) 67, 437
 Kabyle people 79
 Kabylia Mountains 102, 104
 Kadake-Ngwenya railway 361
 Kadalie, Clements 192, 194
 Kadero 72
 KADU, see Kenya African Democratic Union
 Kaduna 49, 362, 437
 Kaduna State Housing Authority 353
 Kafue copper 185
 Kafur 471
 Kainji 285, 303, 396
 Kairouan 112–13, 115
 Kakongo state 149
 Kalambo desert 77, 437, 444–5
 plateau 40–1, 43, 45, 67–8
 sands 33
 'Kalahari' field 282
 Kalambo Falls 62–3, 67–8
 Kaleb, king 109–11
 Kalembo 68
- Kalenjin people 81
 Kalonga 129
 Kamau, Johnstone (= Kenyatta, Jomo) 210, 403
 Kamba language, people 77, 81, 150
 Kambari language 77
 Kambona, Oscar 255
 Kampala 393
 Kampala, OAU Conference 247
 Kandoa 46
 Kanem 131–2, 134
 Kanem–Bornu 133
 Kanembu 75, 134
 al-Kanemi, Sheikh Muhammad 134
 Kani, John 437, 439
 Kankar 347
 Kano 132–3, 301–2, 342, 470
 KANU, see Kenya African National Union
 Kanuri language, people 75, 77, 81
 Kaposwa 68
 Kapwepwe, Simon 262
 Karakum 52
 Karamanlis 139–40
 Karanga language, people 75, 85
 Karari industry 60, 62
 Kariba 273, 285, 306, 396
 Karimi merchants 137
 Karimojong 292
 Kariuku, J. M. 237
 Karume, Abeid 211
 Kasai 165, 188, 205–6, 260
 Kasanje kingdom 128, 130, 149
 Kasavubu 260
 Kasese 361
 Kasoma 437–8
 Katanga, see also Shaba 33, 130, 150, 165, 185, 205, 206, 260, 334, 386
 Katla language 75
 Katoto 128
 Katsina 49, 132–3
 Kaunda, Kenneth 213, 214, 261–2
 Karari stone industry 62
 'Kavirondo' people 82
 Kayes 154
 Kayibanda, Grégoire 248
 Kazembe 82, 128, 129, 130
 KBS industry 60, 62
Kebre Neghest 'Glory of the Kings' 106, 111, 122
 Keino, Kip 452
 Kei river 128
 Keita, Modibo 241
 Kemant language 75
 Kennedy, John F. 217, 465
 Kenya 33, 54, 237–8, 265, 311–12, 265, 356, 375, 378–80, 400, 403–5, 451–2
 agriculture 220, 284, 293–4, 302, 304, 326, 328, 330
 arts 425, 439, 449
 colony 163, 183–5, 188, 210, 212
 industry 338, 342, 347–9, 351, 353–4
 people 82, 154, 287, 332
 resources 275, 279–81
 trade 304, 328, 362, 372–5

- Kenya African Democratic Union (KADU) 210, 237
 Kenya African National Union (KANU) 37, 210
 Kenya African Union 210
 Kenya Central Association 403
 Kenya highlands 36, 82, 129–30, 163–4, 210
 North 60, 85, 307
 South 68, 73, 75, 81
 West 128
 Kenya People's Union (KPU) 237
 Kenyatta, Jomo 194, 210, 237, 265, 403
 Kerekou, Colonel Mathieu 225
 Keren battle 199
 Kgatla people 86
 Khafre king (= Chephren) 90
 Khama, Sir Seretse 225
 Khani 99
 Khartoum 69, 72, 187, 196, 395, 433, 451
 Kharijites 113–14
 Khatmiyya Sufi Order 199
 Khider, Mohamed 223
 Khoi people 149
 Khoisan language, people 12, 74, 77, 79, 97–9
 Khoisanoid type 70
 Khufu king (= Cheops) 90
 Kikuyu Central Association 183, 193, 210
 Kikuyu language, people (= Gikuyu) 77, 81, 82, 130, 164, 183, 210, 237, 311, 425
 Kilembe 361
 Kilimanjaro 38, 79, 393, 427
 Kilo Moto 188
 Kilwa 118, 120, 125, 129, 144, 149, 154, 384
 Kilwa hinterland 129
 Kimberley 130, 170
 Kimbanguist movement, churches 189, 194
 Kimbundu language, people 77, 82, 217
 kingdoms 78–86, 99, 119, 125, 149, 161, 163, 184, 210
 ancient Egypt 94, 96–7
 Ethiopia 105
 Kongo 127, 141, 165
 kings, kingship 106, 164, 199, 226, 239, 243, 254, 257, 266, 382, 384, 408, 413, 414, 416, 424, 445
 King, Martin Luther 484
 'King of the Bush' 417
 King of the Water 416
 King's African Rifles 446
 kingship, sacred 105
 Kinshasa 454, 456
 kinship 381, 382, 387, 425, 482
 Kintampo 73
 Kinyarwanda language, see Rwanda
 Kipsigis people 81
 Kirundi language, see Rundi
 Kisama salt mines 143
 Kisangani (Stanleyville) 206
- Kisenyi 461
 Kissi language 75
 Kissinger, Henry 263, 465
 Kisumu 237, 347
 Kitawala (Watchtower) movement 194, 205
 Kitchener, Lord 173
 Kizlar Agha 471
 Koalib language 75
 Kofi, Vincent 433
 kola nuts 132, 133, 147–8
 Kololo people 82, 130
 Komenda 142
 Kongo 77, 82, 127–8, 141, 143, 165, 408, 413, 420
 Konso 420
 Koobi Fora 58, 60–1
 Kordofan 75, 312
 Kordofanian languages 75
 Korean War 213, 234
 Kotey, David 'Poison' 453
 Kotoka, Brigadier Emmanuel 214
kouloughlis 139
 Koumbi-Saleh 384
 Kountche, Lt.-Colonel Seyni 245
 Kpelle language, people 75, 78
 KPU see Kenya People's Union
 Krim, Belkacem 223
 Krio language 77, 80, 454
 Kromdraai 58–9
 Kruger Park 312
 Kruger, President 169, 171
 Kru language, people 77, 82
 Kuba 82, 413–4, 420–22
 Ku Klux Klan 483
 Kumasi 78, 148, 347, 355–6, 433
 Kumba 394–5
 Kunama language 75
 Kunene, Masisi 441
 !Kung Bushman 287–8, 288–9, 444–5
 Kurama language 77
 Kuri language 75
 Kush 94, 109, 111
 Kutep language 77
 Kuwait 230
 Kwa languages 77, 78–81, 84, 86
 Kwango river, valley 149
 Kwanyama people 165
 Kwanza river 128, 143
 Kwararafa 81, 132
 kwashiorkor 310, 319, 394
 Kwazulu 'homeland' 252
 Kwena people 86
 Kwilu revolt 189
- labour 90, 220, 286, 301–2, 319, 348, 372
 conscription, recruitment 166, 189, 231
 force, stable 335, 386
 migration 190, 284, 285, 295, 335, 348, 377, 383, 447, 474;
 Central Africa 185, 213, 224;
 East Africa 82; France 197,

- 304; South Africa 86, 169, 185, 190, 244, 304; West Africa 304
 mine, plantation 167, 178, 181, 188, 190, 335
 unrest 246–7, 325, 477
 Americas 146, 475, 478–80
 Central Africa 188–90
 East Africa 166
 southern Africa 86, 130, 184–5, 190–1, 215, 304, 376–7
 West Africa 143, 169
 labourers 149, 175, 188, 231, 383, 388, 471
 labour-intensive technology 296, 325
 labour market 192, 348
 Labour Party, South Africa 192
 Mauritius 242
 Ladipo, Duro 456
 Laetoli 60–1
 La Giera 168
 Lagos 361–2, 365, 380, 405, 451, 454, 456
 colony 154, 161, 163, 181, 209, 369
 people 196, 285, 316, 382
 Lagos Conference 402
 La Guma, Alex 441
laibon 83
 Lake Abaya 105
 Lake Besaka 73
 Lake Chad 69, 131–2, 162, 303, 358, 427
 basin, area 33, 45–6, 75, 96, 462
 Lake Chad Basin Commission 462
 Lake Haiq 122
 Lake Kainji 303
 lake kingdoms 128
 Lake Kisale 125
 lake levels 69, 72–3
 Lake Malawi (= Nyasa) 150, 163, 393
 Lake Rudolph, see Lake Turkana
 lakes 43–4, 46, 56, 69, 303, 360, 379
 Lake Tanganyika and Kivu Basin Commission 462
 Lake Tana 109, 123
 area 121
 Lake Tanganyika 45
 area 125, 150
 Lake Turkana (= Rudolph) 46, 60–1, 69
 Lake Victoria 44, 46, 57, 64, 68–9, 75, 85, 128–9, 163, 361, 414
 Lake Volta 303, 361
 Lalibela, emperor 121
 Lalibela churches 121
 Lambaesis 102
 Lambarene 393
 Lambo, Dr T. A. 393
 Lamizana, Lt.-Colonel Sangoule 258
 Lamming, George 478
 Lamtuna people 116
 Lamu Islands 119
 Lancaster House Conference 263
lançados 143, 145
 land 284, 302, 342, 353, 382, 387–9
 alienation 166, 170, 178–9, 183–4, 191, 193, 217, 245, 304, 383
- policy 155, 192, 214, 252, 263, 348
 reform 210, 223, 230, 232, 238, 269, 284, 317, 330
 rights, tenure 164, 263, 267, 269, 301, 326, 383, 390
 shortage 183, 210, 223, 294, 301, 306, 477, 484
 use 211, 267, 312
 Land Apportionment Act (Southern Rhodesia) 184
 landforms 37–8
 land-locked countries 262, 361, 362
 landlord-chiefs 210
 landowners 102, 104, 112, 128, 152, 287
 Land Tenure Act (Rhodesia) 263
 Landuma language 75
 Lane, Lunsford 482
 Lango 82, 258
 languages 74–7, 252, 283, 300, 389, 404, 406, 438, 443, 445
 Lapido, Duro 437
 Larabanga 426
 Larashe 141
 La Rochelle 161
 Larsen, Nella 483
 Lasta 109, 111, 121–2
 Later Iron Age 98–9, 125
 Late Stone Age 64, 67–9, 73
 Latin America 374, 446–9, 467, 478–81, 484
 Latin language, culture 101–2, 104, 113
 Lattier, Christian 433
 Laurenço Marques 190
 Lausanne, Treaty 168
 Laval, Pierre 188
 Lavigerie, Cardinal 152
 law and order 91, 163, 246
 Lawata people 104
 Laws, Dr Robert 393
 Lawson family, Togo 257
 lawyers 383
 Laye, Camara 440
 League of Nations 187–8, 204
 Mandate 158, 175, 179, 180, 183, 192, 202, 211, 244
 Leakey, Mary 59–60
 Leakey, Richard 60
 leather, leatherwork 133, 138, 330, 332, 333, 343
 Lebanese 176, 383, 467
 Lebanon 91, 100
 Lebne Dengel 124
 Lebowa 'homeland' 252
 Lega 414
 legal systems 113, 267–9, 381, 469, 473
 Legislative Councils 182, 208–9
 legitimate trade 130, 153
 leishmaniasis 396
 Leopold II, king 152, 157, 164–5
 Leopoldville (= Kinshasa) 205–6
 Lepcis 101
 leprosy 309, 311, 394, 396
 Lesotho 36, 70, 85, 238, 238, 268, 281, 303, 349, 378, 460, 462

- Lessing, Doris 441
 Letseng-la-Terai 281
 Lettow-Vorbeck General von 175
 Levantine enterprises 353
 Lewis, W. A. 320
 Liberation Committee 460
 Liberation Rally (Egypt) 230
 liberation struggle 255, 262, 466, 468
 Liberia 42, 45, 153, 172, 239, 265, 269, 380, 403, 408, 451
 agriculture 293, 297
 external relations 459, 462, 464, 488
 industry, trade 347, 365, 372
 labour 169, 349
 minerals 280–2, 329, 335–6, 361
 peoples, languages 75, 77, 80, 82, 153, 193, 393, 447, 477
 Libreville 162, 347, 395
 Libya 33, 41, 239–40, 266, 269, 279, 337, 370, 405, 451
 ancient 95, 100–1, 112
 external relations 228, 254, 404, 459, 462, 469
 Italian 167, 175
 oil 272, 283, 303, 324–5, 334–5, 365, 371–2
 Libyan Campaign 195, 199
 desert 115
 light industry 321, 343, 371, 389
 Lilongwe 241
 Limann, Hilla 234
 Limba language 75
 Limpopo river, area 128–30, 170, 336
 Lingala language 77
lingua franca 75, 77, 85, 154
 linguistic institutes 401
 lions 54, 311, 312
 Liptako-Gourma region 358
 Lisbon 141, 218–19, 465, 472
 Lisbon coup 24, 219
 Lisette, Gabriel 228
 literacy 41, 78, 143, 251, 390, 400, 441
 literature 91, 440–1,
 Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine 394
 livestock 170, 183, 278, 307, 311, 347, 411
 Livestock and Meat Economic Community 462
 Livingstone, David 151, 361, 393
 Livingstonia Hospital 393
 loans 273, 322, 353, 460
 Loango 143, 147, 149
 Lobengula 84
 Lobito 262, 365
 Locke, Alain 483
 Lods, Pierre 433
 Logone 427
 Loi Cadre 'framework law' 200, 202–3
 Lomé Convention 227, 242, 374, 464, 468
 Lomé Treaty of Association 358
 London Anti-Slavery Conference 482
 London Missionary Society 152
 London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine 394
 long-distance trade 96, 105–6, 119–20, 122, 130, 132, 147, 367, 411
 Longuda language 77
 Lonrho 335
 loom 330, 333–4
 Lothagam 61, 69
 Lovedale Missionary Institution 393
 Lowasera 69
 Lower Tugela 216
 Lozi (= Barotse) people 79, 82, 130
 kingdom 128
 Lualaba river 125
 Luanda 143, 145, 149, 155, 165, 217, 224
 Luapula river 128
 Luba language, people 79, 82, 125, 130, 445
 Lubumbashi (= Elisabethville) 205–6, 433
 Lubwa 213
 Luchazi people 82
 Lugard, Frederick (Lord) 164, 177, 182
 Lugbara 392
 Luhya people 82
 Luluabourg mutiny 205
 lumber 190, 278, 280, 338, 477
 Lumpa Church 410
 Lumumba, Patrice 206, 260, 265
 Lunda people, empire 82, 120, 127, 128, 143, 149, 165, 421
 Luo language, people 75, 82, 237
 Lusaka 263, 404, 461
 Luso-African 165
 Luthuli, Albert 216
 Luwale people 82, 128
 Luxor (ancient Thebes) 91, 93
 Luyia language 77
 Luzira 413–14
 Lyautey, General 161, 179
 Lydenburg 98, 413
 Lyon, G. F. 469
 Lyttelton, Oliver 211
- McCoy, Elijah 482
 McEwan, Frank 433
 McKay, Claude 483
 Maasai (Masai) language 75
 Maban language 75
 Machel, Samora 244
 machine-gun 152, 158
 machinery 304, 335, 337–8, 371, 373
 Macias Nguema Byogo, see Fernando Po
 Macina 133–4
macumba 480
 Macupa Bridge, Mombasa 163
 Madagascar 40, 42–3, 45, 48, 52–4, 77, 82–3, 287
 pre-colonial, colonial 117, 149, 162
 modern 203, 240, 247, 280–1, 297, 380, 384, 395, 463
 Maddy, Yulisa 438
 Madeira 143, 197–8, 478
 Madrid agreement 242

Maffey, Sir John 187
Maga, Hubert 225
al-Maghili, Muhammad, 133
Maghrib 48, 50, 69, 79, 95, 284, 362, 382
 history, see also North Africa 113, 114, 116, 137, 138, 140, 179
Magill, S. F. 393
Mago 100
Maguzawa people 81
Mahdia 114–15
al-Mahdi, 470
Mahdi 114, 116, 411
Mahé Islands 249
Mahfouz, Naguib 441
Mahfuz 124
Mahram deity (= Ares) 108–9
Maiduguri 361
maize 72, 128–9, 145, 287
 imports 261–2
 marketing 190, 304
maize-growing 86, 249, 295–7, 301, 328
Maji Maji rebellion 159, 166
Makapansgat 59, 61
Makeda, queen 106, 111
Makeni 454
Makerere College 211, 393, 395
Makonde people 83, 129
Makonnen, Ras 204
Makua language, people 77, 83, 129
Makurdi 361
Makuria 110
Malagasy language 77, 117
 French relations 280
 people 82, 162, 203
Malagasy Republic 440
Malan, D. F. 192, 215
malaria 158, 277, 284, 309–10, 319, 396
Malawi 83–4, 86, 130, 150, 214, 241, 269
 agriculture 297, 304, 328, 372
 modern 279, 349, 354, 361, 379, 394–5, 460, 462
Malawi Congress Party (MPC) 241
Malayo-Polynesian language 77, 82, 117
‘Malays’ 79, 411
Mali, Republic 241, 269–70, 310, 314, 395–6, 402
 culture 413, 429–30, 480, 447
 economy 270, 274, 349, 353, 360, 370, 372
 external relations 357–8, 375, 460, 462–3, 466–7
 people, language 75, 78, 79–80, 83, 85–6, 390
Mali empire 83, 93, 97, 131–3, 135, 138, 141
Malik Anbar 470–1
Maliki 267, 411
Malikite school 113
Malik Sarwar 470
Malik Si 133
Malindi 144, 384
Malinke language, people, see also

Maninka, Mandingo 75, 83, 131–2, 135
Malloum, General Félix 228
malnutrition 284, 310–1, 319, 394, 396
Malvern, Lord, see Godfrey Huggins
Mamluks 116, 136, 138–9
Mamprusi (Mamprugu) 133
al-Mamun, 470
mancala 455–6
Mancham, James 249
Manchester Pan-African Congress, see Pan-African Congress
Mandate, Mandates Commission, see League of Nations
Mande language 75, 77, 79–80, 83, 85–6, 132–3
 traders 132, 142–3, 148
Mandela, Nelson 217
Manding language, people, see Mande
Mandinka people 209, 234
Mane people 147
Manekweni 127
manganese 233, 282, 335, 351, 361, 372
Mang’anja people 129
Mangbetu 75, 83
Mangoche Hills 241
manikongo (ruler, Kongo) 143
Maninka language 75
manioc 145, see also cassava
manpower 283, 285
Mansa Musa 133
al-Mansur al Dhahabi, Ahmed 132, 135, 139
manufactured goods 179, 317, 337, 354, 358, 386, 463, 468
manufacturing industry, sector 220, 303, 318, 320, 337–8, 346, 349
 state 353–4
 Central and East Africa 213, 241, 375
Mauritius 242
North Africa 321
manufacturing licences 353
manumission 469, 472, 476
Manyema 130
Manyika people, kingdom 85, 128
Mapungubwe 128
Maravi people, kingdom 83, 129, 418
Marc Aurel 403
Margai, Sir Albert 250
Margai, Sir Milton 150, 209
Margi language 75
Marinids 137–8
market economy 102, 390
 garden 160
 week 367
marketing boards 320, 326, 351
marketing systems 86, 328, 476–7
markets (demand) 328, 349, 460–1
 mass 378–9
markets, market places 131, 365–8
 Central Africa 143–4, 149
 East Africa 118, 150
 Ethiopia 106, 109, 122, 124

North Africa 115, 366
West Africa 97, 149
Maroon communities 476
Marrakesh 116, 138–9, 160, 384
marriage 267, 269, 288, 381, 413, 425, 434, 435, 479
marronage 476
Martinique 440, 475, 478
Marxism, Marxism-Leninism 179, 225, 229, 232, 244, 249, 377, 459
Maryland 481–2
Masai (Maasai) 83, 130, 164, 293, 311, 391, 422, 425, 434
Masalit language 75
Mascarene Islands 53
Maseru 349, 378
Masingir Dam 306
Masinissa 101–2
Masisi 205
Maskara 139, 160
masks 406, 414, 416, 418, 431, 478
massacre 218, 227, 258
mass audience 436, 456
Massawa Islands, port 122, 144, 167, 171, 187
mass education 397
mass media 448, 456
mass-produced goods 151
mass support 480
Massylios 101
Matabele, see Ndebele people
Matadi 205, 361
Matamba 128, 149
Matanzima, Chief Kaiser 252
Matara 106, 109
material culture 426, 434
Matos, Luis Palés 478
matrilineal 79, 81, 83
Matzelliger, Jan 482
Mau-Mau 82, 210, 410
Mauretania 101–4
Mauretania Caesariensis 101–3
Mauritania 73, 75, 84, 242–6, 260, 274, 290, 303, 307
 economy 349, 370
 external relations 357, 375, 462
 history 95, 131, 141, 162, 179, 408
 minerals 281, 335–6, 351, 361–2, 365, 372
Mauritius 129, 149, 242, 349, 357, 372–3, 379, 395, 463, 467
Mawlay Abd al-Rahman 140
Mawlay al-Rashid 139
Mawlay Ismail 139
Mawlay Youssef, Sultan 198
Mayotte (Comoro Islands) 162, 228–9
mazimbabwe 127
Mazrui 154
Mbasogo, Lt.-Colonel Teodoro Oblang Nguema 232
Mbembe language 77
Mbida, André-Marie 202
mbira 421, 444
Mboya, Tom 237
Mbugu language 75
Mbum language 77

Mbundu people 82, 127–8, 143, 149
Mbuti Pygmies 85, 287
MDRM, see *Mouvement Démocratique de la Rénovation Malgache* (Madagascar)
meat 109, 279, 287, 292–4, 302, 328, 342, 372, 375, 388
Mecca, Medina 110, 114–15, 120, 134, 140, 412, 469, 471
mechanics 356
mechanization 300, 317, 377
Medea 139
media 404, 450, 456
medical care 286, 319, 388, 393, 395, 396, 408
medical practitioner 201
medical training 393
medicinal plants 391
medicine, modern 201, 392–5, 473
 traditional 390–1
Mediterranean economy, trade 93, 95, 100, 138, 384, 408
 culture 89, 108, 137
Mediterranean sea 36, 53, 410, 472
 Eastern 72, 104–6
 Western 100, 104
 coasts 40, 43, 50, 101, 167, 378, 380
Mediterranean slave trade 472
Medjerda valley 102
Megélé 111
Mehalla el Kubra 347
Melilla 139, 168, 190
Mende language, people 75, 209, 392
Menelik I, Emperor 111, 155, 167, 171, 172, 204
Mengo hospital 393
Mensah, E. T. 448
Menuhotep I 91
Merca 119
mercantile state 109
mercenaries 138, 236
merchants 16, 97, 110, 114, 116, 120, 124, 141, 146, 153, 157, 184, 369
Mereb river 106, 120
Merina (= Hova) people 83, 203
Meroe 94, 96
Mers el-Kebir 139
Messali al-Haji 197
Mestiri, Ahmed 257
metal goods 118, 342, 343
 tools 96
metal working 80, 413
metallurgy 74, 89, 95
metals 127, 334, 335, 373, 414
Mexico 475, 478–80
Micrombero, Michel 226
microliths 65, 66, 68–70
Middle Congo, see Moyen Congo
Middle East 52, 114, 136, 138, 141, 152, 210, 284
middlemen 148, 305, 328, 354, 369
Middle Stone Age 64–5, 68–9
migrants 258, 322, 348
migration 240, 253, 258, 292–4, 316, 322, 326, 381, 383, 386–8, 412, 455, 483

Mijikenda people, see Nyika
military 135, 161, 203, 470
 bases 203, 239–40, 449, 465
 force 151, 153, 161, 199, 203
 presence 166, 230
 rule 178–9, 199, 266, 351
 technology 465
Military Revolutionary Council 199
milk, milking 125, 193, 205
millenarian movements 189, 193, 205
millet 72, 295–6, 304, 307, 328
Mills, Florence 483
Milner, Sir Alfred 171
Mimoun, Alain 451
mineral exploitation 177, 283, 303, 334–5, 338, 351
 oils 154
 prospecting 157, 165, 185, 246, 283, 336
 resources 191, 233, 244, 252, 275, 321, 337, 342, 358, 462
minerals 220, 261, 342, 369, 371–2
miners 185, 215, 243, 395
mines 167, 185, 238, 285, 348, 386, 447, 455, 478
minimum wage 388
mining 151, 163, 220, 280, 336, 348, 351, 361–2, 384
 Central Africa 99, 188–9, 248
 North Africa 179, 190
 Latin America 479, see also gold
 mining, copper mining etc.
mining industries 165, 185, 213, 244, 295, 334–5, 349
 centres 169, 388
mining camps 189
mining capital 324, 335
ministries of education 401, 402
Mirambo 150
Al Misr 403
missionaries, Christian 129, 138, 143–4, 152–3, 157, 162–3, 165, 189, 383, 403
 Islamic 115
mission churches 383, 408, 410
 education, schools 193, 383, 446, 455
 hospitals 393
missions 152, 161, 190, 193, 393, 403, 408
Mittleholzer, Edgar 478
Mkomazi Game Reserve 314
MLSTP, see *Movimento de Libertação de São Tomé e Príncipe*
MMM, see *Mouvement Militant Mauricienne* (Mauritius)
MNC, see *Mouvement National Congolais*
MNR, see *Mouvement National Révolutionnaire* (Congo)
Mobutu, Joseph-Désiré = Mobutu Sese Seko 206, 228, 256, 260–1
Mobutu Sese Seko 261, 265, 449
Moçamedes 361
modernization 177, 183, 332, 348, 389–90, 436

agriculture 330, 346
arts 448, 450, 454
 nineteenth century 140, 153, 160, 162, 193, 204, 232, 264
Modisane, Bloke 441
Moeshoeshoe II, king 239
Mogadishu 118–19, 144, 187
Moghul imperialism 470
Mohamed, A. R. (‘Babu’) 212
Mohamed Haji Ibrahim Egal 204
Mohammed, Brigadier Murtala 247
Mohammed V (Morocco) 196–8, 243
Moheli, see Mwali
Moi, Daniel arap 237–8
Mombasa 119, 128, 144–5, 149–50, 154, 347, 362, 365, 369, 384, 408
Monastir 198
Mondlane Eduardo 218–19, 244
money 334, 370, 377, 387
money economy 293, 387
moneylenders 305
Mongu people 84
Monomotapa, see Mwenemutapa
Monophysites 108, 110, 112
monopoly 145, 149, 152, 162, 164, 220, 240, 416
Monrovia 172, 239, 347, 357, 359, 408, 447
Montague Cave 67
Montevideo 479
Montgomery, Benjamin 482
Montreux Convention 187
Moors (people) 84, 472
Mopti 360
Mouvement Révolutionnaire National pour le Développement (Rwanda) 248
Moraba, Kori 450
morán 83
Morel, E. D. 165
Moré language (= Mossi) 77
Morho Naba 84
Morocco 36, 41, 43, 103, 279
 history 67, 95, 112, 115–6, 132, 137–41, 388
 French 174, 198
 modern 243, 267, 290, 303, 373, 378, 380, 404, 425
 external relations 223, 224, 241, 259–60, 266, 459, 462, 464, 469–71
 minerals 272, 281–2, 335, 365
 coast 65, 168;
 Atlantic 103, 116, 138
 North 101, 113–14, 168
 South, South East 114–15
 ‘Morocco leather’ 302, 333
 Morocco, modern 179, 198, 243, 259–60
 Morocco, Spanish 116, 190, 196
 French 153, 159–60, 179, 196
 revolts, independence struggle 17, 159, 168, 198
Moshi 393
Moshoeshoe II 239
Moshweshwe, king 85, 130

mosque 113, 115, 118, 133, 368, 384, 426
Mosque of the Kaba 471
Mossi 84, 133
 languages, see Moré
mountains 45, 50, 379–80
Mount Kenya 52, 396
Mouri 145
Mouride Muslim brotherhood 389
Mouvement Démocratique de la Rénovation Malgache (Madagascar) (MDRM) 203
Mouvement Militant Mauricienne (Mauritius) (MMM) 242
Mouvement National Congolais (MNC) 206, 265
Mouvement National pour la révolution culturelle et sociale (Chad) 228
Mouvement National Revolutionnaire (Congo) (MNR) 229
Mouvement Populaire de la Révolution (Zaire) 260, 449
Mouvement Populaire (Morocco) 243
Mouvement pour l'Evolution Sociale de l'Afrique Noire (Oubangui-Chari) 202
Movimento de Libertação de São Tomé e Príncipe (MLSTP) 248–9
Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola (MPLA) 219, 224, 245, 460, 465–6, 467
Moyen Congo colony 179, 181, 202
Mozambique 33, 36, 48, 83, 86, 306
 history 127, 130, 144, 158, 165, 185, 190
 liberation struggle 219, 226, 252, 256, 262–3, 269
 modern 217, 244, 265, 272–3, 281–2, 321, 328, 330, 361, 372
 arts 437, 441, 445
 foreign relations 464–5, 469, 478
Mozambique Company 166
MPC, see Malawi Congress Party
Mphahlele, Ezekiel 441
MPLA, see *Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola*
Msiri 130
Mubarak Shah 470
mud building 429, 430
Mufo 65
Mugabe, Robert 263, 456
Muhammad Ali 140, 152
Muhammad ibn Yusuf (= Mohammed ben Yusef, Mohammed V of Morocco) 198
Muhammad Idris, Amir 168
descent from 113–14, 139
Muhammad, the Prophet 110–1
Muizz, monarch 115
Mulago 393
Mulai Hafid, Sultan 161
mulattoes 143, 172, 472
Mulay Ismail 470–1
multilateral finance aid 370
multi-national corporations 351, 354
Multinational Programming and

Operational Centres 461
‘multi-racial’ society 211
Mulungushi Declaration 353
Mumias 82
Murabitun = Almoravids 116
 murabits (marabouts) 139
Murray, Kenneth 433
Murzuq 140
Musa ibn Nusayr 112
music 71, 85, 380, 404, 442–5, 447–50, 454, 478, 480
 musicians 90, 435, 442–5, 447–50, 470–1
Muslim brotherhoods 230, 389–90
Muslim peoples, areas, 78–81, 83–6, 111, 166, 179, 208, 267, 308, 412
 forces 124, 141, 429
 kingdoms, states 79, 111, 120–22, 124, 132–5, 144, 154, 411
 traders 111, 118–9, 469
 world 469–71
Muslims 132, 133, 134, 411, 429
Mustafa, Ibrahim 451
Mustafa Kamil 173
al-Mustansir 470
Mustapha El-Ouali Sayed 259
al-Mutanabbi 471
Mutesa II, King Frederick 210, 258, 297
Mutwa, Credo 437
Muwahhidun (= Almohads) 116
Muwale, 214
Muzorewa, Bp. Abel 263
Mwali (Moheli) (Comoro Islands) 228
Mwambutsa IV, Mwami 226
Mwangi, Meji 441
Mwata Yamvo 128, 130
Mwenemutapa kingdom
 (= Monomotapa) 128, 144, 170
Myalism 476
myth 435, 437
Mzilikazi 84, 130

Nacala 241
Nairobi 130, 210, 294, 316, 369, 387, 396, 403, 451, 456
Nama people 159, 166, 175
Namibia 245, 262, 281–3, 303, 334–5, 372, 404, 465
 archaeology 68, 70
 German 157, 175
 language, people 77–8, 81–2, 287
 physical 33, 40, 43, 46, 48
Namibian border 165, 224–5
Nandi people 81, 159
Naod 124
Napata 94
Napoleon, Emperor 140, 160, 475
 Napoleonic wars, armies 140, 154, 156, 160
Napoleonic Codes 268
Narosura, 73
Nasera, 68
Nasser, Gamal Abdel 200, 230, 404, 459, 467

- Nasser, Said 451
 Natal 48, 70, 84, 155, 169, 193, 216, 376
 National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (USA) 483
 National Charter (Algeria) 223, 266
 National Christian Council of Kenya 356
 National Congress of British West Africa 193–4
 National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons (NCNC) 209, 246
 National Council of Nigerian Citizens (NCNC) 246
 National Development Corporation of Tanzania 353
 nationalism 176, 193–7, 264, 390, 448, 460
 North Africa 223, 259
 north-eastern Africa 153, 173, 186–7, 199, 204
 Madagascar 203
 Mozambique 218
 West Africa 181, 207
 nationalization 336, 338, 349, 351, 353, 370
 Central Africa 224, 244, 260
 Egypt, North Africa 223, 230
 Ethiopia, East Africa 232, 237, 258
 Madagascar 280
 West Africa 248, 257
 National Negro Business League (USA) 483
 national parks 311–4
 National Party (South Africa) (NP) 192, 215–16, 252, 376, 452
 National Party (Egypt) 173
 National Supply Company of Nigeria 353
 National Union (Egypt) 230
 National Urban League (USA) 483
 Native Authorities 182–3
 Native Labour Corps (South Africa) 176
 Native Lands Acts 376
 Native National Congress (South Africa) 176
 natural gas 272, 283
 naval base 141, 169, 249
 navy 120, 151, 203
 NCNC, see National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons; National Council of Nigerian Citizens
 Ndaou people 85
 Ndebele (= Matabele) people, country 84, 130, 159, 170, 214
 Ndembu people 82, 392
 chiefdom 165
 Ndiseye, Prince Charles → Nfere V, Mwami 226
 Ndjamena 395
 Ndola 361
 Ndongo 143, 148
 Near East, see also Middle East 67, 69, 71, 72, 173, 199, 254
 Nefertiti, queen 92
 negroid peoples 60, 70, 97, 98
 'Negroid' population of Egypt 93
 Neguib, General 200, 230
negus (military title) 107
Negus Neghast 'King of Kings' 107
 neo-colonialism 265, 357, 459, 460, 464
 neo-mercantilism 177
négritude 194, 201, 440, 478
Néo-Destour Party 197–8, 257
 Neto, Agostinho 218–19, 441, 468
 New Orleans 483
 newspapers 209, 403, 456
 New York 341, 483
 Ngaoundéré 227, 361
 Ngazidja (Grande Comoro) 228
 Ngizim language 75
ngola a kiluanje (Ndongo ruler) 143
 Ngoni people, kingdoms 84, 130
 Ngouabi, Marien 229
 Ngoyuo state 149
 Nguema, Francisco Macias 231
 Nguesso, Colonel Denis Sasson 229
 Ngugi wa Thiong'o 431, 438, 440–1
 Nguni language, people 77, 82, 84, 86, 128–30
 Ngwenyama, king 254
 Niamey 395, 461
 Niassa Company 166
 Niger-Congo languages 75, 77
 Nigeria 33, 48–9, 96–7, 312, 393–5, 400, 403–5, 411–12, 453
 arts 334, 380, 413, 425, 432, 436, 440, 446–7, 449–50, 454
 agriculture etc. 297–8, 300–1, 303, 305, 326, 328
 eastern 60, 150, 163, 381, 390, 393
 economic 274, 298, 324–5, 342, 349, 362, 365, 369–70, 384, 456
 Jos Plateau 63
 manufacture 318, 338, 343, 348, 351, 353–5
 minerals 270, 280, 282–3, 334–6
 modern 154, 159, 175, 182, 193, 202, 207–8, 434
 Northern 131, 134, 158, 164, 182, 209, 301–2, 333, 380, 411, 433
 oil 272, 324, 336, 365, 371, 374
 people 75, 77, 81, 84, 86, 301, 316
 political 246, 269, 266–7, 285, 384, 462–3, 465–6
 southern 163, 209
 western 181, 382, 391, 394
 Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Decree 354
 Nigerian Federation 353
 Nigerian National Democratic Party 246
 Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation 351
 Nigerian National Shipping Line 365
 Nigerian Youth Movement 194
 Niger-Kordofanian languages 75, 77
 Niger mission (CMS) 153
 Niger, upper 131–2
 Niger Republic 245, 279, 281, 290, 307, 339, 361–2, 396
 arts 333, 429, 439, 446
 external relations 358, 375, 461–3
 French colony 162, 175, 179, 181, 202
 language, people 75, 77, 81, 85, 340
 Niger river 130, 285, 303, 361
 Bend 96, 114, 131–3, 142
 Delta 42, 45, 77, 81, 148–9
 delta 303, 362, 434
 Guinea 36, 45
 interior delta 69
 Middle Niger Bend 75, 96, 114, 161, 192
 Middle 75, 161
 Saharan 36, 46
 trade 38, 151, 157–8, 193
 Upper 45, 79, 143, 147, 154, 161
 Nile 36, 38, 46, 89–92, 108, 119, 152, 187, 273, 285, 360–1, 396
 Blue 45, 94, 105, 109, 119–20, 123, 167
 Delta 284
 upper 45, 72, 75, 80, 82, 85, 89, 411
 Valley, basin 40–1, 45–6, 48, 65, 69, 301; ancient 89, 93, 95; people 84, 284, 316; routes 136, 411, 469
 White 46, 119, 158, 163
 Nile Waters Agreement 187
 Nilo-Saharan languages 75, 81, 85
 Nilotes 82, 292
 Nilotic languages 73
 East (= Paraniotic) 75
 West (= Nilotic) 75
 al-Nimeiri, Pres Jaafar 231, 253
 Nimeiri, Major General Jaafar 254
 Nippon Steel 335
 Nixon, President 465
 Nkomo, Joshua 214, 263
 Nkroful 207
 Nkrumah, Kwame 182, 207, 265, 321, 403
 Ghana 207–8, 234–5, 351, 354, 448
 abroad 206, 230, 357, 459, 463, 468
 Nkumbala, Harry 213
 Nobatia 110
 Nobel Peace Prize 484
 nobles 83, 86, 90, 112
 Nogal (Italian Somaliland) 187
 Nok 96, 413, 415–6
 nomads 100, 104, 114–16, 132, 140, 168, 251, 287, 294, 302
 non-alignment 230, 244, 249, 255–6, 464–5, 467, 468
 non-Arab African States 399
 North Africa 45, 50, 75, 137–140, 279
 agriculture 140, 275, 300, 305, 307, 328, 375
 Arab, Ottoman 79, 113, 132, 139–41, 472
 archaeology 63, 65, 67, 69–72, 95
 Atlantic 100, 140
 Christian 408
 classical 78, 84, 100–3
 coast 95, 100
 colonial 167, 193, 195–6
 independent 269, 318, 348–9, 367, 371, 378, 380, 383, 403–5, 413, 445
 Islam 384, 390, 410–2, 469–71, 492
 stock-rearing 138, 140, 475
 North America 281, 378, 380, 403, 477, 481
 North Atlantic Treaty Organization 217, 465
 north-eastern Africa 71, 108, 111, 118–19, 145, 156, 187, 302
 northern Africa 33, 41, 45, 52, 75, 79, 365
 northern Ghana 133, 297, 304
 Northern Nigeria, Protectorate 163, 164
 Northern Peoples Congress (Nigeria) (NPC) 209, 246
 Northern Rhodesia 14, 185, 220, 261, 273, 404
 Northern Rhodesian Congress 214
 North Kavirondo Central Association (Kenya) 183
 north-western Africa see also Maghrib, North Africa 41, 72, 141, 168, 177, 380
 Nortje, Arthur 441
 Nouira, Hedi 257
 NP, see National Party (South Africa)
 NPC, see Northern Peoples Congress (Nigeria)
 Ntshona, Winston 437, 439
 Nuba Hills 75, 84
 Nuba people 84, 109, 419
 Nubia 46, 65, 69, 71, 75, 91–4, 110–12, 115, 137, 408, 470–1
 Nubi people 84
 nuclear power 274, 281
 Nuer (Sudan) 291
 Numidia (modern Algeria) 100–1
 Numidia, Roman province 101–3
 Nupe language, people, 77, 84, 133–5, 334, 425
 Nusayb 471
 nutrition 315, 318, 328, 394
 Nwoka, Demas 433
 Nyabusora, 63
 Nyakyusa people 84, 429
 Nyamwezi people 84, 129–30, 150
 Nyanja people, see also Maravi 83
 Nyasaland 163, 185, 193, 213, 241
 Nyasaland Congress 214
 Nyerere, Julius 211, 253, 255, 265–6, 321, 356–7, 402–3
 Nyika (= Mijikenda) people 84
 Nyoro people 84
 Nzawani (Anjouan) 228
 Nzinga, queen 128
 oases 101–2, 140, 278
 OAU, see Organization of African Unity
 oba (Benin ruler) 143

- Obama, Jean-Baptiste 436
 Obasanjo, General Olusegun 247
 Oberlin College 218
 Obey, Ebenezer 449
 Obiechina, Emmanuel 441
 Obote, Milton 211, 257–8
 OCAM, see *Organisation Commune Africaine et Mauricienne*
 OCAMM, see *Organisation Commune Africaine, Malgache et Mauricienne*
 OCCEAC, see *Organisation Commune pour la Coopération de l'Afrique Centrale*
 ocean fishing 295, 303
 shipping 360, 365
 Odinga, Oginga 237–8
 OERS, see *Organisation des Etats Riverains du Fleuve Sénégal*
 Office de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique Outre-Mer 395
 officials 133, 379, 383, 411, 479
 offshore oilfields 229, 233, 237
 Ogaden 105, 120, 229, 233, 250, 460, 466
 Ogoni language 77
 Ogoué valley 162
 Ogunde, Hubert 437, 439, 456
 Ogungbesan, Kolawole 441
 Ogunmola, Kola 456
 oil 231, 254, 272, 283, 290, 305, 365
 Algeria 179, 198, 223–4, 272
 Libya 240, 272, 303, 335
 Nigeria 272, 286, 336, 351, 465
 others 226, 229, 231, 233
 oil companies 262, 272
 oil fields, oil wells 198, 219, 230–1, 272, 283, 362
 oil imports 234, 248, 261, 270, 274, 304
 oil palms 294, 301, 337
 oil prices 234, 245, 273, 283, 336–7, 346, 371–2, 460, 468
 oil producers 324, 371–3, 374
 oil refining 227, 238, 244, 272, 342, 353
 Oil Rivers Protectorate 163
 Ojukwu, Colonel Chukwuemeka Odumegwu 246
 Okeke, Simon 433
 Okeke, Uche 433
 Okello, John 212
 Okiek 287, 289
 Okigbo, Christopher 440
 Okosun, Sonny 450
 Okot p'Bitek 440
 Old Dongola 110–11, 119
 Old Oyo 97
 Olduvai 46, 59–63
 olives 101–2, 104, 153, 294, 297
 Olokun 416
 Olorgesailie 62
 Olowe 413, 424
 Olympic Games 451
 Olympio, Sylvanus 256, 257
 Oman 128, 154
 Omani, Arabs 128, 145, 149–50
 clove plantations 149
 Omo river, valley 60–1, 67, 105, 306
 Omotic (= western Cushitic) language 75, 105
 onchocerciasis 311, 396
 one-party state 203, 226, 229, 230–1, 235, 237, 244, 250, 254, 262
 Onitsha Market literature 441, 456
 Onobrakpeya, Bruce 433
 Opango, Colonel Joachim Yhombi 229
 OPEC, see Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
 Operation Feed the Nation 305
 Opobo 153
 oracles 149, 267, 408
 Oran 139
 Orange basin 45
 Orange Free State 43, 48, 86, 155, 376–7
 Orange Rivery Colony 171
 Organic Law (Egypt) 173
 Organisation Commune Africaine et Malgache 357, 463
 Organisation Commune Africaine, Malgache et Mauricienne 463
 Organisation Commune Africaine et Mauricienne 463
 Organisation pour la Collaboration et Coopération contre les Grandes Endémies 395
 Organisation pour la Mise en Valeur du Fleuve Sénégal 462
 Organization of African Unity (OAU) 242, 254, 339, 357, 405, 451, 459–61, 464, 466–8
 Conferences 232, 247, 250, 258
 Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) 224, 234, 274, 336, 371, 468
 Oromo, see Galla people
 Oron, Oron-Ibibio 413, 420
 Osei Tutu 78
 Oshogbo 433
 Osi-Ilorin 413
 Osiris, god 91
 ostriches 52, 55, 133
 Ottoman Empire 116, 132, 138–40, 145, 152–3, 160, 162, 168, 173, 469, 471
 Ouagadougou 84, 395
 Oubangui-Chari 179, 202, 227, 358
 Oudjda 160
 Oued Isly 160
 Oujda group 223
 Oulata 427
 Ould Daddah, Moktar 242
 Ould Salek, Lt.-Colonel Mustapha 242
 Ouologuem, Yambo 440
 Ousmane, Sembène 439–40, 456
 Ovambo 78, 245
 overgrazing 73, 278–9, 292, 316
 overpopulation 219, 292, 315–16
 overseas trade 118, 129, 148–9
 Ovimbundu kingdom 128, 130
 workers 224
 Owen Falls 277, 396
 ox-ploughing 302–3, 355
 Oyo 134, 148–9
 Ozidi Saga 435
 p'Bitek, Okot 440
 PAC, see Pan Africanist Congress (South Africa)
 Padmore, George 477
 Pahouin, see Fang people
 PAIGC, see *Partido Africano da Independência da Guiné e Cabo Verde*
 painting 413, 422, 431, 444, 478
 PAI, see *Parti Africain de l'Indépendance* (Senegal)
 PAL, see Progressive Alliance of Liberia
 palaces 90, 113–5, 138, 241, 417, 425, 432
 Palestine 91–2, 110–11, 115, 136, 140, 200, 460
 Palestine Liberation Organization 224, 231, 460
 palm fibres 333
 kernels 163, 297
 products 196, 297, 304, 307, 360
 wine 447
 palm-oil 129, 153–5, 163, 297, 300, 328, 373, 388
 Central Africa 164, 188
 palm-oil mills 300, 337
 palm-oil trade 80, 156
 West Africa 78, 81, 143, 298, 326, 372
 Pan-Africanism 193, 207, 234, 265, 357, 460–1, 467, 474, 476–7
 Pan-Africanist Congress (South Africa) (PAC) 216–17
 Pan-African Congress 194, 207, 210, 459–60
 Panama 480
 pan-Arabism 459–60
 Pangwe, see Fang people
 paper 280, 337–8, 347
 Paraniotic, see Nilotic, language
 Paris 370, 440, 474
 Park, Mungo 151
 Parks, Rosa 484
 Parmehutu, see *Parti de l'Emancipation du Peuple Hutu* (Rwanda)
 Parti Africain de l'Indépendance (Senegal) (PAI) 249
 Parti Congolais du Travail (PCT) 229
 Parti de l'Emancipation du Peuple Hutu (Rwanda) (Parmehutu) 248
 Parti de l'Unité Togolaise 256
 Parti Démocratique de Guinée (PDG) 201–2, 235
 Parti Démocratique de la Côte d'Ivoire 200–1, 237
 Parti Démocratique Sénégalais 249
 Parti des Dëshëritës Malgache (Madagascar) 203
 Partido Africano da Independência da Guiné e Cabo Verde (PAIGC) 218–19, 227, 237
 Parti du Congrès de l'Indépendance de Madagascar 203
 Parti du Peuple Algérien (PPA) 197
 Parti du Peuple Mauritanien (PPM) 241
 Parti Progressiste Nigerien 245
 Parti Progressiste Tchadien (PPT) 228
 Parti Social Démocrate (Madagascar) 203, 240
 Parti Socialiste (Senegal) (PS) 249
 passes, pass-laws 184, 215, 217
 Pasteur Institute 394
 pastoralism 73, 149, 275, 287, 290–4
 pastoral peoples, societies 49, 78, 95, 284, 289, 307, 316, 391
 East Africa 111, 164, 237, 328
 Horn of Africa 51, 120, 122, 124, 307
 South Africa 81, 155
 Western Sudan 79, 131, 308, 328
 pasture 49, 129, 277
 Pate 119
 Paterson, Reverend Edward 433
 Paton, Alan 441
 Patriotic Front (Zimbabwe) (PF) 263
 patronage 239, 384, 446
 PCT, see *Parti Congolais du Travail*
 PDG, see *Parti Démocratique de Guinée*
 peasant agriculture 264, 287, 301, 304
 peasants 159, 196, 275, 300, 316, 326–8, 330, 383, 388
 Central Africa 85, 217, 228, 335
 eastern Africa 84, 184, 190, 210
 Egypt 108, 112–13, 173, 186
 Ethiopia 123, 232
 Europe 472
 North Africa 102, 104, 197, 223
 West Africa 159, 201, 249
 Pedi people 85
 Pemba 129, 150, 211–12
 Pentecostalism 410
 Peoples' National Assembly (Guinea-Bissau) 236
 People's National Party (Ghana) (PNP) 234
 People's Progressive Party (Gambia) (PPP) 233–4
 People's Redemption Council (Liberia) (PRC) 239
 People's Republic of Angola 224
 People's Republic of Benin 225
 People's Republic of China 466
 pepper 141, 143
 Pétain (Vichy) 195, 202
 perfume 133, 229, 248
 Periplus of the Erythraean Sea 107, 109, 111, 118
 permanent settlement 69, 71, 73, 89
 Persian Gulf 117–18, 144, 154, 336, 469, 471

Persia, Persians 93, 104, 110, 114, 116, 118, 144, 471
pests 277, 304, 358
petro-chemicals 336, 339
petroleum 324, 325, 334–6, 342, 345–6, 351, 353, 372–3, 477
petroleum-refining 337, 345
petrol rationing 227
Peul, see Fulani people
PF, see Patriotic Front (Zimbabwe)
Phoenicians 95, 100
phosphates 179, 243, 245, 251, 257, 259–60, 282, 335–6, 365, 372
pidgin languages 77, 302
pigs 302
pilgrimage 110, 111, 133, 137, 412, 469
pirates 111, 138, 140
Pires, Aristides Pereira Pedro 227
pit props 279
plantation production 190, 279, 348, 475, 477, 480
plantations 165, 167, 181, 237, 258, 275, 300, 316, 353, 473, 478–9
plantation slavery 469
plantation workers 165, 217, 388, 395
planters 177, 185
Plateau languages 77
Pliya, Jean 436
plough 73, 105–6, 302, 330
plural society 149, 377
PNP, see People's National Party (Ghana)
poetry 201, 441, 443, 471, 478
Polisario (Western Sahara) (*Frente Popular para la Liberación de Sakiet el Hamra y Río de Oro*) 224, 242–3, 259–60
political authority 326, 351, 367
centralization 132
institutions 131, 283, 413
parties 193, 230, 410
prisoners 230, 237
system 132, 406
unification 358
politicians 383, 404, 446, 469
polygyny 382, 409, 425
pombeiros 143, 145
Pomongwe 67
Pondo people 84
'poor white' 191, 248
Popular Democratic Republic of Angola 224
popular music 435, 446, 450, 455–6
population 70, 78–86, 97, 239, 283–6, 348, 358, 376, 383, 403
decline 184, 302
density 48, 315–6, 328; high 48, 73, 150, 248, 258, 307, 367; low 225, 284, 287, 315, 328, 403
distribution 275
growth 49, 98, 128, 227, 283, 326, 334, 372, 386, 412; East and Central 99, 183, 328, 312; Madagascar 240; Southern Africa 191
movement 74, 99, 105, 125, 284
pressure 99, 296, 300, 328
rural 286, 301, 305, 308
urban 206, 212, 252, 317, 381, 384, 366, 386
Pore society 82, 85
porters 150, 388, 472, 482
Porto Novo 148, 161
ports 262, 321, 336, 339, 347, 361–2, 365, 472
East and South Africa 190, 196, 244, 361, 377
North Africa 101, 104, 138, Red Sea 106, 167, 171, 229
West and Central Africa 148, 188, 196, 361
Portugal 116, 120, 124, 139, 157, 169, 195, 235, 376, 472–3
policy 151, 177, 273, 395, 408
slave trade 82, 146, 148–9, 151, 155, 472, 478
Portuguese in Africa 141–5, 165–6, 190, 217–9, 268, 326, 393, 465
Angola 128, 149, 158, 224, 245
East Africa 99, 128, 154
Guinea Bissau 154, 218–9, 236
Kongo 124, 127–8, 143
Mozambique 124, 130, 158, 244, 273, 453
North Africa 138
West Africa 411
Portuguese India 124
Latin America 478
Portuguese language 77, 118–19, 145, 464
possession 407–8, 443, 471
potter's wheel 330
pottery 330–2, 413–14, 432
early 69, 72–4, 89, 94, 97–9, 102, 125
sculpture 413–5
trade 118, 128
poultry farms 302
poverty 308–9, 316, 326, 330, 349, 380, 383–4, 387–8, 400, 402, 468, 480
power 346, 348
power development 275
power-generating stations 321
PPA, see *Parti du Peuple Algérien*
PPM, see *Parti du Peuple Mauritanien*
PPP, see Progressive People's Party (Liberia)
PPT, see *Parti Progressiste Tchadien*
prazeros 144, 148–9, 165
PRC, see People's Redemption Council (Liberia)
presidentialism 266
press 230, 390, 403–4
Prester John 124, 141, 408
prestige 311, 334, 402, 411, 423
prestige projects 277
price agreements 182, 208, 326
price controls 196
prices, exports 176, 220
agricultural 196, 317, 326, 328, 330, 371–2
mineral 213, 245, 257, 261, 342
prices, food 238, 243, 493
prices, imports 304, 346, 460 see also oil prices
prices, slaves 472
priest-chiefs 80
priests 202, 267, 407, 408, 434
primary products 317, 318, 320, 322, 371–2
Principe, see São Tomé and Príncipe
printing 337, 343, 401, 403
processing 189, 328, 336, 371, 373
produce-grading 304
produce marketing boards 320
production 383, 397, 400, 402, 461
productivity 342
profits 338, 368, 378, 383
Progress Party (Ghana) 234
Progressive Alliance of Liberia (PAL) 239
Progressive People's Party (Liberia) (PPP) 239
Promotion of Bantu Self Government Act 252
protectorate 157, 166, 161, 163, 168, 172–3, 179, 186, 190, 197–8, 209, 238
proto-Ethiopic language 78, 106
'proto-Mediterranean' 70
PS, see *Parti Socialiste* (Senegal)
Ptolemy 93, 101
Ptolemaic kings 93, 106
public health 179, 284
investment, debt 353, 371
sector 250
services, utilities, works 347–9, 351, 353, 374, 388
Puerto Rico 475, 477–8
Punic Wars (Phoenician) 101
language 101–2, 104
PUNS, see Sahara National Union (West Sahara)
Purified National Party (South Africa) 192
Purvis, Robert 482
pygmies 54, 84–5, 287
pyramids 90, 91, 94

Qaddafi, Muammar 231, 240, 266
Qadiriyya 134
al Qahira (= Cairo) 115
el-Quafi, Mohammed 451
Qala 115
Qalawan 136
Queen of Sheba, Saba 106, 111, 122
Quran 113, 116, 267, 469
Quranic School 201
Qus 136
Qwaqwa 'homeland' 252
Rabat 197
Rabemananjara, Jaques 203
Rabêrivelô, Jean-Joseph 440

racial discrimination 386, 479, 480
racism 131, 467, 480, 484
'radical' states 467
radio 175, 343, 345, 403–4, 435, 441, 446, 456
raiding 81, 86, 122, 146, 292
rail transport 145, 229, 241, 261–2, 361, 389, 482
railway construction 151, 154, 161–4, 169, 179, 384
recent 227, 233, 235–6, 361
routes 229, 261–3, 346
railways 162, 188, 190, 219, 229, 333, 342, 358, 362
rainfall 40–5, 48–9, 69, 98, 248, 275, 278, 290, 292, 305–7, 360, 456
rain forest 49, 52–4, 98
rais, corsair captain 139
Ramantsoa, General Gabriel 240
Ramesses I, II, III, 92
Ramgoolam, Sir Seewoosagar 242
Rand, see Witwatersrand
Ras Alula 171
Rassemblement Démocratique Africain (RDA) 195, 201
Rassemblement du Peuple Togolais (RPT) 256–7
Ratsirika, Lt.-Commander Didier 240
Rawlings, Lieutenant Jerry 234
raw material exports 321, 362, 371, 383–4, 463
to Asia 118, 353
to Egypt 93
to Europe and America 151, 175, 195, 239, 260, 346
raw materials imports 338, 346, 347, 373
raw materials local 238, 330, 336, 342, 347, 425
RDA, see *Rassemblement Démocratique Africain*
Real Sociedad Geográfica Española 168
rebellions 190, 193, 197, 203, 261, 388
'recaptives' 153, 172
recession 189, 318, 328
recording, music 446, 448, 456
recruitment 175, 190, 285, 349, 386
Red Sea 36, 44, 73, 469
routes, invasions, voyages 114–15, 120, 136–7, 144–5, 155, 195
North 110
South 73, 111
trade 469
referendum 200, 202, 204, 235, 243, 259–60
refining – metals 336, 373, see also oil refining
refugees 119, 146, 149, 152, 229, 251, 285, 289, 307
reggae 450
Regional Development Corporations 353
regional groupings 357–9, 462–3
regionalism 248
religion 389, 401, 408–10, 446, 469
syncretic 480

traditional 406–8
Remond, Charles 482
René, Albert 249
Régimen de castas 479
republic 100, 155, 172, 200, 210, 216–17, 226, 230, 234, 237, 464, 479
Republic of Benin, see Benin Republic
Republic of Congo, see Congo Republic
Republic of South Africa, see South Africa
research 212, 358, 462
'reserve' 184–5, 215, 376, 377
resettlement 285, 306
Reshe language 77
'residencies' 167, 183
Resident, French 162
British 184
Resident Minister (British) 207
resistance 134, 158–61, 163, 165–6, 170, 252, 259
Reth, king 188
Réunion 129, 149, 162, 248, 372
Revels, Hiram R. 483
revenue 116, 126, 153, 162–4, 238–9, 338, 358
from taxes 155, 214, 229, 304, 343
revolt 163, 175, 189, 194, 198, 232, 259
Revolutionary Command Council (Egypt) 230
(Libya) 240
RF, see Rhodesian Front
rhinoceros horn 107, 118, 314
Rhodes, Cecil 136, 163, 170–1
Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) 163, 169, 262, 269, 304, 404, 460, 465
war 225, 244
Rhodesian amalgamation 185, 213–4
Rhodesian Bantu Voters Association 193
Rhodesian Front (RF) 214, 262–3
Rhodesia Selection Trust 185
rhythm 435–6, 442–4, 480
rice 294–5, 297, 301, 328, 342, 358
Madagascar 82, 117
Mozambique 190
West Africa 72, 225, 234, 239, 307, 310
rice imports 236
rice-growing, America 146, 481
Rif 168, 190, 196
Rift valley, East Africa 33, 36, 38, 45, 50, 52, 58–60, 274
Ethiopia 105, 120, 122
Kenya 62, 73, 81, 83
Tanzania 83
rigged elections 197, 246, 250, 256
Rillieux, Norbert 482
rinderpest 166, 293, 302
Rio Muni 169, 190, 231
riots 206, 208, 232, 246
risk 292, 336, 371
ritual 292, 382, 392, 406, 408, 413, 414, 434, 436, 443–4
Rivera, Primo de 190
'river blindness' 311, 396

River Niger Basin Commission 462–3
river-rail transport system 154
rivers 45–6, 130, 164, 303, 358, 360, 426
river transport 132, 154, 360–1
RNC, see Royal Niger Company
road construction 188, 190, 227, 348
roads 78, 179, 220, 305, 307, 312, 321, 346, 389
road transport 353, 362, 378
Roan Selection Trust 261, 335
Roberto, Holden 219
Roberts, President J. J. 172
Robeson, Paul 483
Rochereau 449
rock art 70, 72, 95–6, 413, 415
Rolong people 86
Romain-Defossés, Pierre 433
Roman Africa 93, 95, 102, 104, 115, 130
influence 95, 109–10
Romano-Berber kingdoms, princes 104, 112
Rome 95, 101, 102, 104, 107, 384, 472
Ron language 75
Roosevelt, Franklin 195, 198, 465
Rossing mine 281
Rostow, W. W. 320
Rotimi, Ola 436
Rouch, Jean 439
Roumain, Jacques 478
Rovuma river 154
Royal Dutch Tropical Institute 396
Royal Niger Company 135, 157, 163
royalties 185, 213, 224, 261
Roya, Edward James 172
Rozvi people 128, 130
RPT, see *Rassemblement du Peuple Togolais*
Ruanda 175, 183, see also Rwanda
Ruanda-Urundi 268
rubber 129, 162, 164–6, 196, 239, 297, 300, 305, 349, 372, 388
Rufisque 161, 181
Rugambwa, Cardinal Laurian 410
Ruhengeri 248
ruling party 228, 235, 237, 248, 255, 351
Runga language 75
rural development 211, 322, 326, 328, 356
rural-urban migration 285, 328, 386–8
Rusinga Islands 57
Russia, see also USSR 151, 162, 303
Ruvu-Mnyusi 361
Rwanda 248, 287, 301, 357, 374, 382, 384, 461–3
archaeology, history 63, 125
Rwanda/Burundi 292
Rwanda language, people 77, 85, 128
Saadians 139
Saba ('= the South') 106, 109–10
Sabratha 101

Sabredin 122
Sadat, President Anwar 230–1
Sadian dynasty 470
Sadiq al-Mahdi, Sayyid 254
Sahara 36, 38, 89, 130
archaeology 65, 413
central 40–1
climate, vegetation 42–3, 45, 50, 65, 72–3
eastern 75
margin 38, 46, 71, 95–6, 103
oases 342
oilfields 198
people, language 75, 79, 84, 86, 102, 104, 113, 131, 140, 295, 411
southern 42, 69, 72, 132
trade, see trans-Saharan trade
western 95, 116
Saharan Arab Democratic Republic 260
Saharan National Union Party (Spanish Sahara) (PUNS) 260
Sahel 46–9, 130, 133, 275, 278, 312, 328, 348–9, 384, 390
people 78, 81, 86
Sahelian drought 43, 249, 258, 284, 307, 309, 326, 388, 462
states 316, 411
Sahraoui Republic, proposed 242
nationalism 259–60, see also Western Sahara
Saint-Domingue 146, 473, 475–6
Saint Louis 154, 161, 181
Saint Lucia 478
Saint Mark 108
Saint Stephen monastery 122
Sakalava people 83, 162
Sakiet Sidi Youssef 257
Sakkara 90
Saladin 116
Salah ben Youssef 198
es-Salahi, Ibrahim 433
Salazar, António 190, 217, 219
Salé (= Salee) 140
Salisbury 361, 403
Salisbury Workshop 433
salt 95, 109, 128, 132–3, 143, 147–8, 165, 270, 292, 426, 471
Samori 135, 159, 161
Sandawe language 77
sande society 82
Sanga copper and iron 125
Sango (god) 434
Sango language 77
Sanhaja nomads 132
San Pedro 365
San people 70, 287, 444
Santa Cruz, Nicomedes 480
Santeria 476
Santiago 142
Sanusi, Sanusiyya 168, 175, 199, 239
Sao 413
São Tiago Island 218
São Salvador 224
São Tomé 141, 143, 145, 165, 219
and Príncipe 248–9

Sarakole people 85
Sara language 75
Saudi Arabia 230
savanna 49–50, 52–5, 290, 295, 301, 396, 411
man 58, 85, 96, 99
East, South and Central Africa 125, 287, 310
West Africa 130–1, 148, 154, 161, 382
savanna fringes 130, 293
Savimbi, Jonas 219
Sawaba party (Niger) 245
sawing 279–80, 337–8, 347, 356
Sayyid Ali ibn Hamoud 184
Sayyid Muhammad Abdille Hassan 158
Sayyid Said ibn Sultan 149, 154
schistosomiasis 311, 319, 396
school-leavers 250, 319, 356
schools 393, 399, 402, see also education
Schumacher, E.F. 354
Schweitzer, Dr Albert 393
Scramble for Africa 75, 153, 156, 164–5, 167, 173, 193
SCSA, see Supreme Council for Sports in Africa
sculpture 91, 93, 96–7, 413–4, 420, 424, 431, 444
sea communications 106, 117, 138, 140, 203
Seadedin 122–3
seamen 472
Saint Lucia 478
Sebitwane 130
secession 206, 209, 211, 246, 260, 390
Second World Festival of Black and African Arts and Culture 455–6, see also *Festac*
Second World War 320, 336, 338, 384, 428, 447–9, 474, 477
'secret societies' 82–3, 85
sects 408–9, 410
sedentarization 259, 289
Sefawa 134
Segou 79, 134, 148, 292, 412
segregation 213, 263, 483–4
Sekondi 347, 350
Seku Ahmadu, see Ahmadu (Tokolor)
Seku Ahmadu Lobbo, see Ahmadu Lobbo, Seku
self-employment 349, 388, 402
semi-arid region 46, 81, 290, 360
Semitic language, speakers 73, 78, 86, 105, 120, 122, 124
Ethiopia 105–6
Semliki 54
Sena 144
Senegal (republic) 33, 131, 249, 266, 390, 393, 395, 405
agriculture, etc 220, 297–8, 300, 303, 328, 338
arts 414, 433, 439–40
colony 154, 158, 160–1, 163, 179, 181, 193, 200–1

economy 272, 274, 307, 334, 378–80
foreign relations 234, 236, 375, 411, 462–3
language, people 75, 83, 85–6, 292, 383, 390
phosphates 282, 335, 351, 365
Senegal river, valley 132–4, 137, 141, 306, 360
Senegambia 142, 147, 150, 209
Senghor, Léopold 194, 200–1, 249, 266, 389, 403, 431, 440
Sennar 119
Senufo language, people 77, 85, 431
separate development 245, 252, 268, 377
separatist Churches 409
Sékou Touré 165, 266, 321
Septimus Severus, Emperor 102
Serengeti National Park 311, 312, 314
Serer people 85–6
Seretse Khama 225
servants 376, 472, 482
Seti I, king 92
Setif 197
settled cultivators 302
settlements 73, 74, 97
settlement schemes 284, 330
settlers 166–7, 177–8, 264, 403, 437
 Central Africa 143, 206, 217
 East Africa 143, 164, 183, 193, 210–11, 238
 Indian Ocean 162, 203
 North Africa 160, 178–9, 383
 southern Africa 130, 155, 177, 184, 191, 213–14, 219, 244, 295, 369, 376–7
Seville 472
Seychelles 53, 249, 357, 378–9
Shaba Province (formerly Katanga) 99, 125, 128, 256, 261, 281, 334, 386, 460, 464
Shafii 113, 267, 411
Shagari, Shehu 247
Esh Shaheinab 72
Shaka 86, 130
Shama 142
shanty towns 196, 286, 383, 387, 447
shares 354, 370, 378
Sharia 267, 469
Sharifs 139
Sharpeville shooting 216–17, 251, 377
Shata, Alhaji Muhamman 455
Shaykh al-Balad ('Head of the City') 140
Shaykh Umar, see Al-Hajj Umar
sheep 71, 74, 98, 138, 302, 427
Sherbro 413
Shewa 105, 120–3
Shibraim, Ahmed Mohamed 433
shifting cultivation 278, 284, 300
Shiites 113, 115
Shilluk people 85
Shimbra-Kure battle 124
Shimenzana 121
shipping 118–19, 138, 141, 151, 358, 364–5
Shirazi dynasty 118
Shire Highlands 185
Shluh people 79
Shoa 155
Shona language 77, 214
 people 84, 85, 159, 170
shrines 406, 413, 428–9
Siad Barre, Major General Mohammed 250
Sicily 100–1, 113, 115, 138, 472
Sidama kingdom, people 85, 105, 111, 120–1
Sidi Muhammad 140
Sierra Leone 33, 42, 45, 75, 249–50, 307, 392–3, 395, 397, 403, 408
 agriculture 154, 295, 297, 300
 arts 413, 447, 454, 456
 foreign relations 462, 473, 484
 history 141, 147, 153, 163, 193
 minerals 281, 334–6, 351, 372
 oil imports 272, 274
 political 209, 264, 269
Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) 249–50
Sierra Leone Railway 361
Sierra Leone Youth Movement 181
Sijilmasa 115–16
silk 106, 118, 414, 422–3, 423
silver 89, 100, 141, 479
silver mines 143, 472
Silvestre, General 190
Sinai oilfields 230–1
single-party system 256, 265, 269
sisal 183, 224, 238, 300, 328
Sisala language 77
Sithole, Reverend Ndabaningi 214, 263
skilled workers 217, 479, 482
skins 95, 133, 314
slave armies 113, 130, 138, 469–70
slave labour 165, 348, 471–2, 478, 480
slave-raiding 117, 302
slavery 469, 472, 479, 481–2
slaves, Africa 86, 100, 129, 136, 138, 149, 376
 America, Europe 472, 474, 480–2
 Muslim world 140, 469–71
 sources 117, 129, 148–50, 302, 411
slave trade 141, 145–50, 153, 165, 184, 408, 437
abolition 151–5, 163, 475, 480, 481–2
Atlantic 81, 128, 130, 133–4, 143, 165, 472
Europe 141, 472, 478
Indian Ocean 144–5, 469
Mediterranean 136, 469, 472
Nile 111–2, 114
overseas 150
Red Sea 111, 118, 123, 469
slave traders 80, 82, 411
trans-Saharan 95, 114, 132–3, 145, 411, 469, 481
slavery, abolition 155, 484
sleeping sickness 395–6

SLPP, see Sierra Leone People's Party
smallpox 146, 293, 394–6
small stock 292, 302, 305
smelting 89, 282, 332, 334, 336, 342
Smith, Ian 214, 262–3
smuggling 234, 241, 250, 375
Smuts, J. C. 191, 215
Soames, Lord 263
soaps 153, 354, 356
Soba 119
Sobhuza II (Swaziland) 254
Sobukwe, Robert 217
socialism 194, 201, 229, 249, 269, 322, 325, 353, 370, 405
 North Africa 223, 240
 Tanzania 212, 255, 322, 379
Socialiste Destourien Party (Tunisia) 257
social revolution 91, 182
social security 384, 387
social services 185, 214, 320, 330
social stratification 125, 237, 383–4, 446
social welfare 318, 320, 348, 382
Sociedad de Africanistas y Colonistas 168
Société Générale de Belgique 188
Society of Free Officers, see Free Officers Movement
Sofala 118, 144, 384
soil erosion 238, 263, 277–9, 284, 304
soils 36, 46–9, 275, 279
 fertility 105, 183, 284, 296, 301, 308, 316
Sokoto Caliphate 134–5, 148, 158–9, 163
solar energy 40, 274, 336
soldiers 114, 143, 157, 159, 162, 175, 195–6, 447, 473–4, 477
Solomonic dynasty myth 111, 122
Somalia 250, 269, 274, 287, 330, 353, 372, 395
 British forces 210
 foreign relations 204, 210, 229, 460, 465
 Islam 119–20, 412
 pastoralism 290, 294, 307
 Trust Territory 204
Somaliland, British 163, 167, 188, 204
French Somali Coast 204
Italian 167, 187
Somaliland National League 204
Somali language, script 75, 85, 118, 250
 coast 119, 154, 163, 411
 pastoralists 120, 122, 124, 293
 people 70, 85, 105, 118, 124, 204, 232–3, 250
Somali Republic (Somalia) 204, 250
 revolt 167
Somali Youth League 204
Sonatrach national oil co, Algeria 223
Songhai, Songhay 75, 85, 97, 131, 132–3, 139, 384, 474
songs 404, 443–4, 449
Sonhai people see Songhai

Soninke language, people (= Sarakole) 75, 80, 83, 85, 131–3
Sonni Ali 132
sorghum 72, 98, 106, 295, 304, 307, 328, 342, 356
Sorko 132
Soshangane 130
Sotho people, language 85–6, 130
Sotho/Tswana people 128
South Africa 57–8, 215, 252, 279, 391, 395, 397, 403–5, 410
 arts 413, 428, 437, 447, 449–51
 agriculture, fishing 297, 300, 303
 energy 270, 272–4
 foreign relations 157, 175, 217, 224, 254, 259–62, 265, 267
 inter-war 184, 191–2
 labour 185, 190–2, 285–6, 348, 386
 language, people 84, 86
 law 208, 267–8
 mines, minerals 169, 280–3, 285, 334–6, 345–9, 386
 political organizations 193, 215
 post-1945 213, 216–18, 237–8, 241, 244–5, 251, 256, 261–2
Second World War 166
tourism, national parks 312, 378, 380
trade, industry 338, 341, 346, 361, 365, 372, 386
whites 130, 149, 155, 199, 376–7, 380, 383
South African Broadcasting Services 404
South African National Olympic Committee 452
South African Party 191–2
South African Republic 169
South African Students' Organization 252
South African War 171, 446
South America 52, 146, 459, 478–80
South Arabia 78, 105–6, 109–10, 119
 language, script 101, 106, 108
South East Asia 314
south-eastern Europe 469
southern Africa 155, 169–70, 369, 384, 413, 456, 466, 468
 agriculture etc. 275, 284, 296, 302, 304
 language, people 77, 82, 84–5, 316
 national parks, tourism 312, 378, 380
 physical 33, 36, 38, 45, 47–9, 306
 religion 390, 408–9, 411
Southern Cameroons, see Cameroons
Southern Confederacy 482
southern Europe 378
Southern Rhodesia 14, 159, 171, 183–5, 192, 216, 220, 262, 273, 433
southern Sudan see Sudan
South India 289
South Korea 339
South Ndebele 'homeland' 252
South West Africa 159, 166–7, 175, 192, 245

South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) 245, 262, 404
south-western Africa 41, 79
South Yemen 73
sovereignty 460, 464
Soviet, see USSR
Soviet-Egyptian treaty of friendship 231
Soweto 252, 377
Soyinka, Wole 405, 431, 436–7, 440
Spain 145, 151, 168, 195, 472–3, 475, 478
 ancient 95, 100–1
 Arab, reconquest 112–4, 116, 137–9, 141, 410, 469–70
Spanish Civil War 190
Spanish language 77
Spanish expansion 168
Spanish Africa 138, 168–9, 175, 190, 231, 260, 268, 478
 Guinea 190
 Sahara 167–8, 190, 224, 242–3, 259
spices 136, 138, 140, 362
spirits 147, 338, 392, 406–7, 414, 425, 443
sport 451–3, 455–6
squash 456
Stack, Sir Lee 186–7
Standard Bank 369–70
Standard Bank of British South Africa 369
Stanley, Henry Morton 151, 164
Stanleyville 206
starvation 258, 307, 311
state 93, 96, 148, 159, 167, 350–4, 388–90
state enterprise 138, 223, 261, 336, 349, 351, 353, 405
 ownership 351–3
state-run farms 317
states, eastern and southern Africa 84, 99, 144, 150, 155
 Central Africa 82, 149, 164
 North Africa 104, 160, 171, 223
 West Africa 78–80, 86, 147–8, 202, 411
State Trading Corporation of Tanzania 353
status 286, 292, 419, 422
 of women 409
steam power 152
steel 282, 336–7, 346, 374, 482
Stellenbosch 216
Sterkfontein 58–9, 61
Stevens, Siaka 209, 250
Stewart, Dr James 393
stock rearing 276, 290, 295, 476
stone artifacts 73, 74, 90, 413
 tools 58–63, 64, 67, 89, 95, 98
walls 99, 127
Straits of Gibraltar 104, 168
strikes 194, 335
 pre-1960 185, 191, 205, 208, 215
 post-1960 232, 239, 242, 249, 252, 257
Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (USA) 484

subsistence agriculture 220, 249, 275, 304, 306, 316, 322, 326, 335, 348
subsistence economy 103–4, 270, 284, 294, 307, 315, 328, 383
Sudan, Central and Western 95, 114–6, 130–5, 137–40
 'Sudanic' belt 89, 469
Sudanic, central, language 75, 83
Sudanic, eastern, language 75, 80–2, 85, 99
Sudan, Nilotic 33, 275, 280–1
 Anglo-Egyptian 186–7, 188, 199, 230
 history 94–5, 105, 109, 111, 117, 119, 155, 171–3
 people, language 75, 77–9, 84–5
Sudan Republic 80, 199, 253–4, 267, 269, 312, 380, 396, 404, 427, 433
 agriculture and pastoralism 290–3, 297–8, 306–7, 342, 372
 external relations 199, 459, 462, 469
 North 253
 religion 109, 408, 411–2
 South 253–4, 285, 312
Sudan Socialist Union 254
Suez Canal 152, 154, 174–5, 187–8, 199–200, 272
 company, shares 153, 230
Suez route 195
 war 200, 467
Sufism (Islamic mysticism) 134, 139, 199, 411
sugar 294, 297, 302, 342–4
 Americas 143, 145–6, 475, 477, 479, 481
 Egypt and Sudan 337, 342
 Europe and Atlantic islands 138, 143, 472
 Indian Ocean islands 242, 248, 372
 Mozambique 166, 190
 Persia 471
 West Africa 143, 230
sugar mills 337, 347
sugar refining 338, 482
Suhaym 471
Sukuma language, people 77, 85
 Sukuma Federation 85
Sulaiman Bal 134
Sulayman, Sultan, Morocco 140
Sundiata 132
Sunna (Custom of the Prophet) 113
Sunnites 113, 115, 119
supply companies 320
Supreme Council for Sports in Africa (SCSA) 451
Surinam 474–5
Susu 132–3
Susu language 75
Sutherland, Efua 436
Suto people 85
Swahili, Arab-Swahili traders, caravans 144, 150, 165, 438, 441
 city states, settlements 99, 129, 144, 149, 411
 language 77, 118, 125, 129, 154, 211

swamp rice 297
Swazi 'homeland' 252
Swaziland 84–5, 171, 192, 254, 268, 279, 378–9, 462
 minerals 270, 282, 335, 361
Swazi people 84, 85, 382
Sya language 77
Syphax, king 101–2
Syria 92, 103–4, 112, 114–16, 126, 140, 152, 224, 230–1
Taban lo Liyong 440
Tabora 129, 150
Tafari Makonnen (= Haile Selassie) 204
Tahert 114
Taita Hills 183
Takedda 95
Takoradi 347, 365
Takrur 131–3
Tal al-Kabir battle 173
Tallensi people 159
Talodi language 75
Tamasheq language 75
Tanala people 83
Tananarive 162
Tanga 128
Tanganyika, see also German East Africa 183, 185, 211, 212, 275, 357, 467
Tanganyika African Association 193, 211
Tanganyika Africa National Union (TANU) 211–12
Tangier (= Tingi) 103, 141, 197
tanneries 152, 333, 337
TANU, see Tanganyika Africa National Union, Tanzania African National Union
TanZam, see Tazara
Tanzania 211, 285–6, 393, 395, 402, 411, 427–9, 452
 agriculture 297, 301–2, 328, 372
 archaeology, history 58–9, 70, 128–9
 coast, islands 118
 early man 59, 70
 economy 231–2, 274–5, 280–2, 338, 351, 353, 355–6
 government 266–7, 269, 321–2
 North 73
 people, languages 75, 77, 79, 81, 83–6, 287, 467
 physical 33, 48, 54
 population movement 285–6, 306, 381
 south-eastern 130
 wild-life, tourism 311–2, 379–80
Tanzania Africa National Union (TANU) 255
Tanzania Tourist Corporation 379
Tarfaya 169
tariff 304, 338, 354, 374
Tassili 415
Taung 57–8

Taushi, Sarkin 455
Tawana people 86
taxation 214, 224, 263, 283, 293, 304, 325–6, 335–6, see also revenue
 pre-colonial 103, 108, 112, 115, 137, 152
 colonial 163, 166, 175, 177, 181–2, 185, 348
taxes 112, 115, 137, 163, 181–2, 293, 304, 348
tax farms 113, 115, 139–40
tax concessions 249, 338, 351, 354
taxi 362, 456
Tazara (TanZam) railway 261–2, 264, 361, 402, 467
tea 185, 213, 238, 241–2, 297, 299–300, 303–4, 316, 328, 342, 372
teachers 205, 207, 400–1, 402, 467
Tebessa (= Thebeste) 102
technical assistance 236, 405, 460
 skills 318, 393
technicians 383
technology, agricultural 328
 handicraft 304, 330, 334, 425–6
 imported 143, 217, 325, 337, 370, 432, 436
Technology Consultancy Centre, Kumasi, Ghana 355
Teghaza 471
Tekeze, valley 107, 109, 111, 121, 123
Tekle Haymanot, Saint 173
Tekrur kingdom 86
television 401, 404, 405, 441, 456
Tema 347, 365
Temne language, people 75, 85, 209
temples 91, 93, 94, 106, 109
Tenere desert 72
terms of trade 304, 317, 321, 328, 372
Ternefine 62
Teso language, people (= Iteso) 75, 85, 396
Tete 128, 144
Tetela 206
Tewodros I 123, 195
textiles Asian 118, 144
 demand 337
 handicraft 333, 356, 401, 413
 local manufacture 152, 213, 242, 318, 342, 354, 373
 mills, American 482
theatre 380, 436–7, 439, 441, 455–6
Thebes, tombs, kings 91–2
Theodora 110
Theveste = Tebessa 102
Thiong'o, Ngugi wa, see Ngugi wa Thiong'o
Third World 459–60, 464, 467–8
Thlaping people 86
Thonga 391
Thurman, Wallace 483
Thysville riots 206
Tibesti 33, 36, 50, 52, 413
Tiemassas 69
Tiger, Dick 451–2
Tigre province 106, 108–9, 120–24, 172, 430
Tigrinya language 75, 86, 106–7

Tijaniyya 134
timber 118, 162, 190, 226–7, 229,
233, 277–80, 314, 342, 353, 372,
388
Timbuktu 96, 132–3, 139, 292, 384
tin 96, 100, 196, 282, 334, 335, 336,
343, 415
Tin Can Island, Lagos 365
Tingi (= Tangier) 103
tinkhundla tribal communities
(Swaziland) 254
Tippu Tib 150
Tiris El-Gharbia 260
Tiv language, people 77, 86, 159, 382,
434–5
Tlemcen 116, 137–8
tobacco growing, Africa 185, 213,
220, 241, 297–8, 328, 388;
America 146–7, 181
processing 146–7, 481
trade 133
Togo 77, 80, 256, 370, 375, 380, 395–
6, 437, 462–3
German, French 152, 166–7, 179–
80
phosphates 282, 335–6, 351, 365
Tokolor (= Toucouleur) empire,
people 86, 161
Tolbert, William 239
Tombalbaye, François 228
tombs 90–2, 95, 103, 108, 118
Tonga-Korekore people 85
Tonga people 86
Tongogara, Josiah 263
tools 91, 95, 99, 330
Toomer, Jean 483
torodbe 133–4
Tororo 347
Touan, Jules 452
Touba 389
Toucouleur, see Tokolor
Touré, Sékou 201–2, 235–6, 321
tourism 234, 238, 242, 249, 257, 311–
12, 378–80, 432, 456, 463
towns 97, 102, 122, 128, 284, 389–90
townships 100
tractors 300, 328, 355
trade, international 317, 320
intra-African 374
maritime 111, 384
pre-colonial – eastern, southern,
central Africa 99, 118, 127–30,
144, 155, 411; Nile Valley 72,
89–91, 93, 115, 411; North
Africa, Western Sudan 95–6,
114, 132–4, 411, 472; Red
Sea, Ethiopia 106, 109, 119–
20, 122–4, 136, 145; West,
West-Central Africa 97, 141,
143, 148–9, 302
'Scramble' period 153–4, 161–3,
165
colonial 194, 206, 351, 369, 464
post-colonial 240, 248, 317, 324,
353, 369–75, 464; internal
287, 302, 333, 360, 367
trade unions 335, 350, 383, 477
Central Africa 205, 335
North Africa 197, 240, 257
southern Africa 185, 191, 213
West Africa 201, 209, 237, 249, 335
Trade Winds 41–2
traders, African 382, 388, 408
non-African 153, 379, 383, 467
trading centres 100, 106, 120, 132
peoples, African 78–84, 86, 93,
132–4, 142, 143, 148, 472;
European 129, 141–3, 145,
411
networks 138, 142–3, 148, 150,
333–4
states 81–2, 109, 122
traditional arts 401, 413, 425, 434–5,
456
festivals 380
medicine 391–2
religion 133, 390, 406, 409, 412,
432
rulers 133, 164, 193, 269, 326
Trans-African Highway 362, 463
trans-Atlantic slave trade 128, 143,
146, 198, 383, 472, 481
Transkei 84, 86, 239, 376, 460
'homeland' 252
transport 286, 346, 349, 353, 361–5,
371, 373, 390
difficulties 227, 233, 262, 379–80
new, improved 262, 336, 347–8,
358, 368, 381, 461
pre-industrial 90, 130, 148, 426
trans-Saharan highway 463
trans-Saharan trade 130–3, 137, 140–
1, 145, 333, 348, 469, see also
slave trade
traders 79, 85, 95, 114, 130, 132,
148, 291
Transvaal 33, 43, 49, 85–6, 128–30,
169, 190
archaeology 58, 61, 99
railway 166
Republic, see South African
Republic
Traoré, Colonel Moussa 241
Treaty of Rome 358
Trek, Great, see Great Trek
Tribal Trust Lands, Rhodesia 263
tribute 91, 112, 122, 138, 146, 148–9
Trinidad 475
Tripoli 101–2, 116, 139–40
Tripolitania 101–2, 104, 114, 137, 199,
239
Italian penetration 167–8
Tripolitanian National Congress Party
(Libya) 239
tropical crops 242, 305, 371
tropical disease 146, 284, 394
tropical fruits 236, 249
tropical rain forest 48–9, 53, 84, 96,
277, 279, 287, 290
Trotter, William Monroe 483
Trouvoada, Miguel 248
trucks 362, 432, 456
True Whig Party (Liberia) (TWP) 172,
239, 265
trusteeship 177, 204
trypanosomiasis 290, 302, 311, 396
Tsavo National Park 312
tsetse fly 127, 130, 290, 302, 311,
360, 396
tshikona 444
Tshombe, Moise 260
Tsimety people 83
Tsiranana, Philibert 203, 240
Tsonga 129
Tswana (= Bechuana) people 81, 85,
86, 129–30
Tswana-Sotho language 77
Tuareg people 79, 86, 116, 175, 292,
332–3
tuberculosis 310, 388, 394–5
Tubman, William 239
Tulunid dynasty 114
Tumbuka language 241
Tumtum language 75
Tunis 137–40, 179, 384, 394
Tunisia 220, 240, 257, 266–7, 330,
373, 378–80, 459, 462–3
French 160–1, 176, 178–9, 197–9
history 69, 95, 100–2, 104, 114,
137–9, 153, 470
minerals 179, 272, 282, 334–5
Turkey 92, 115–6, 124, 138–9, 175,
186
Tuskegee Institute 482
Tutankhamen 92
Tutmosis I 92, 94
Tutsi, Tutsi-Hima 85, 128, 226, 248,
292–3, 382
Twa people 85
Twi language 78
Twi-Fante language, see Akan
typhoid 309, 395
external relations 240, 146, 256,
258, 354, 357–8, 466–7
people, languages 75, 81–2, 84–5,
287
wildlife, tourism 54, 311, 379
Uganda Asians 258, 354, 467
Ugandan Development Corporation
353
Uganda People's Congress (UPC)
211, 257
UGCC, see United Gold Coast
Convention
UGTT, see *Union Générale Tunisienne
du Travail*
Uitlanders 169, 171
ujamaa 285, 317
Ujiji 156
Ukamba Members Association 183
ulama (sing. *alim*) 'the wise' 113
Ulcinj 471
Umar Walasma 122
Umayyad dynasty 113–14
Umbundu language 77
Umma Party 254
Um Nyobe, Ruben 202
UMOA, see *Union Monétaire Ouest-
Africaine*
Umuahia 433
UN, see United Nations
UNCTAD, see United Nations
Commission for Trade and
Development
underdevelopment 219–20, 269, 463,
468
underemployment 250, 368
UNDP, see United Nations
Development Programme
unemployment 286, 316, 319, 330,
349, 381, 387–8, 394, 400
Caribbean 477
Central Africa 205, 217, 229, 233
East Africa 238
Indian Ocean Islands 240, 248
North Africa 223, 243
southern Africa 252, 356, 377
West Africa 227, 234
UNESCO 402
UNFP, see *Union Nationale des
Forces Populaires* (Morocco)
*União Nacional de Independência
Total de Angola* (UNITA) 219,
224, 465, 466–7
UNICEF 356
Unilateral Declaration of
Independence (UDI) 214, 62–3,
362, 460
Union Africaine et Malgache 357, 463
*Union Africaine et Malgache de
Coopération Économique* 463
Union Camerounaise 202
*Union Démocratique du Peuple
Malien* 241
*Union Démocratique pour la Défense
des Intérêts Africains* (Congo)
229
Union Démocratique Voltaïque (UDV)
258

Union des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale
228
Union des Populations du Cameroun
(UPC) 202, 226, 466
*Union Douanière et Economique de
l'Afrique Centrale* 227–8, 339,
358, 463
*Union Douanière et Economique de
l'Afrique de l'Ouest* 462
Union Générale Tunisienne du Travail
(UGTT) 257
Union Minière du Haut Katanga 205,
260, 335, 386
Union Monétaire Ouest-Africaine 463
Union Nationale Camerounaise 226
*Union Nationale des Forces
Populaires* (Morocco) (UNFP)
243
Union Nationale Rwandaise 240
Union Progressiste Sénégalaise 249
Union of South Africa 171, 175
*Union Socialiste des Forces
Populaires* (Morocco) 243
Union Soudanaise (Mali) 241
UNIP see National Independence
Party
UNITA, see *União Nacional de
Independência Total de Angola*
United African National Congress
(Rhodesia) (UANC) 263
United Arab Republic 230
United Federal Party (Rhodesia) 214
United Gold Coast Convention
(UGCC) 207–8
United National Independence Party
(Zambia) (UNIP) 213–14, 261
United Nations (UN) 199, 204, 230,
245, 259, 320, 322, 395, 461,
465, 468
Commissioner 239, 245
Commission for Trade and
Development (UNCTAD) 468
Development Programme (UNDP)
359, 461
mission 260
Security Council 245
Trusteeship, Trust Territory 202,
204, 211, 218, 226, 256
troops 230, 260
UN-supervised election, Namibia
245
United Negro Improvement
Association 194
United Party (South Africa) 192, 215,
234
United Progressive Party (Zambia)
(UPP) 262
United Republic of Cameroon 226
Unité pour le Progrès National,
(Burundi) 226
Universal Negro Improvement
Association 477, 483
universities 393, 400–1, 479
University of Dar es Salaam 393, 437
UN Sahelian Office 462
UNSO, see UN Sahelian Office
UP, see United Party (The Gambia)
UPC, see *Union des Populations du
Cameroun*
UPC, see Uganda People's Congress
UPP, see United Progressive Party
(Zambia)
Upper Guinea 143, 147, 150
Upper-Katanga 188
Upper Niger see Niger, Upper
Upper Volta 258, 266, 274, 307, 349,
372, 375, 396
external relations 358, 462–3
French 179, 181
languages, people 75, 77, 79, 84
Uprona, see *Unité pour le Progrès
National* (Burundi)
uranium 227, 233, 245, 274, 281, 335
urban areas 133, 322, 347, 348, 376
growth 205, 285–6, 387–8
life 362, 365, 367, 381, 388
populations, see under population
urbanization 93, 362, 368, 381, 384–8,
412, 446, 456
Uruguay 478, 480
Urundi 183, see also Burundi
USA 146, 151, 195, 292, 304, 312,
336
black Americans 473, 477, 479,
481–4
universities 207, 209, 227
USA and Africa 187, 217–9, 230–2,
235–6, 243, 250, 257, 263, 399,
464–5
economic 154, 165, 320–22, 335–
7, 374, 377–9, 467
Liberia 153, 172, 175, 239, 269, 464
US Navy 153
Air Force 217
Usambara 128
USSR 172, 195, 230–1, 235, 237, 241,
249–50, 259–60, 464–8, 477
army, navy 224, 245, 249, 465
Usuman dan Fodio 134
Uteve 128
Uwaifo, Victor 449
U Tam'si, Tchicaya 440
Vaal 65
Vai language, people 75, 86
Valencia 472
Vandal invasions 104
Vasco da Gama 141, 144
vegetable oils 154, 347, 373
vegetation 48–9, 52, 67, 130, 270,
314
Venda 443–4
Venda 'homeland' 252
Venezuela 478, 479–80
Verdier (firm) 161
vernacular 404–5
Versailles Conference 176
Verwoerd, Hendrik 216
veterinary medicine 293
Vichy Government, 195, 202–3
Victoria (Cameroon) 227
Vieira, José Luandino 440–1
Vili kingdoms 128, 130, 149
Villa Cisternos 168
villages 89, 97, 98–9, 104, 128, 236
'villagization' 285, 356
viral diseases 291–3
Vodun 476
Volta-Congo languages 77
Voltaic (= Gur) language 77
Volta Region 235, 396
Volta river 38, 45, 77, 161, 273, 285,
396
Volta River Project 234
Volubilis (= Walila near Fes) 101
voluntary associations 194, 390, 447
Vorster, Balthazar 237, 241, 263
Wadai 140
Wade, Abdoulaye 249
Wadi Halfa 173
Wafd Party, government (Egypt) 186–
7
wage labour 167, 184–5, 190, 215,
285, 316, 348–9, 383, 473, 481
female 349
wages 169, 183, 196, 250, 305, 335,
348–9, 376, 386–7, 477
Wag-Lasta 109
Walasma family 122
empire 122
sultan, Adal 123–4
Walcott, Derek 478
Walila = Volubilis 101
Walker, David 482
Wallace-Johnson, I. T. A. 181–2
Wal-Wal 188
war 124, 129, 135, 146, 155, 320,
394, 396, 474, 475
warriors 79, 85, 83, 86, 116, 119, 120,
136
Al Watan 403
Watchtower movement, see Kitawala
water 187, 227, 246, 274–6, 292, 348,
358, 379
waterholes 312
water resources 274–7
Waters, Ethel 483
water supply 275, 277, 284, 285, 286,
319, 322, 346, 356, 395
water transport 360
Wattisids 138–9
wax 133, 138, 141, 164, 414
weapons 91, 95, 97, 99, 107, 330
weaving 80, 333, 334, 356, 414,
422–3
Webb, Ellsworth 452
Webi Shebele river 119
Welensky Sir Roy 214
Wello province, Ethiopia 78, 120
wells 275, 278, 293
Wesleyan Methodists 152
West Africa 153–4, 193, 380, 384,
403, 477
arts 384, 413, 414, 430
agriculture, pastoralism 292, 295–
7, 326
British 154, 163, 181, 207
coast 77, 79, 141, 143, 290, 294,
390–1, 408, 472
forest 54, 64, 71, 96, 177, 302
French 162–3, 175, 200
French-speaking 193–4
gold 95, 103, 141
health 177, 310–1, 391–2
Muslims 264, 411–2, 469
people 62, 69–70, 73, 80–81, 86,
383, 467, 472, 478
physical 33, 36, 41–2, 44–5, 49,
306
Portuguese 141, 145
sahel, savanna 293, 328, 411, 469
slave trade 147, 153
trade, industry 153, 155, 338, 375
West African Clearing House 371
West African Currency Board 369
West African Economic Community
462
West African Pilot 181, 209
West African Regional Group 462
West African Students Union 194
West Atlantic language 75, 81, 85–6
West Central Africa 141, 143, 147,
149, 154–5, 164, 177
Portuguese 41, 145, 154
western Africa 40–2, 44, 365, 408
Western capital 336, 383
culture 140, 197, 381, 405, 433,
446
technology 244
world 149, 177, 220, 222
Western Europe 136, 141, 151, 164
western Nigeria 246, 367
Western Sahara 242, 259, 365
Western Sudan 96, 130–1, 141, 143,
148, 161
West Germany 217, 236, 256, 374,
377–9
West Indians 193, 459, 474, 477
West Indies 52, 146, 369, 403, 473,
475, 477, 484
West Somali Liberation Front 466
wheat 71–3, 149, 261, 294–5, 297,
328, 342
emmer 72, 89
White Fathers (*La Société de Notre-
Dame d'Afrique*) 152, 393
white immigration 185
White Nile 469
white population 183–5, 211, 213,
217, 224, 261, 376
miners 191
minority 386
planters, farmers 213, 262, 304
trade unions 191, 213
working class 191–2
'white' Highlands 210
'white' South Africa 377, 451
white nationalism 214, 216
power 184, 376, 382, 481
white settlerdom 155, 376
white settlers, see settlers
WHO, see World Health Organization
Whydah 148

- wilaya*, see *département*
 wildlife conservation 311, 312, 380, 415
 Williams, Daniel Hale 482
 Williams, Eric 478
 Williams, Sylvester H. 477
 Wilson, Harold 262
 Wilson, Woodrow, President 176
 Windward Coast 148
 wine 102, 149, 165, 220, 297, 375
 Wingate, Sir Reginald 186
 witchcraft 79
 'witchdoctors' 393, 408
 'witches' 392, 408-9, 412, 417
 Witwatersrand 170, 191, 338
 Witwatersrand recruiting 166, 180, 280
 gold 169
 wives 382, 386, 387, 427, 470
 Wolde, Mamo 452
 Wollo Province 232
 Wolof languages, people (= Jolof) 75, 86
 women 197, 218, 230, 236, 355, 382, 387, 408-9, 411, 425, 429, 434, 437
 wood 89, 93, 277-9, 342, 414
 woodcarving, sculpture 79, 81, 82-3, 413, 431
 Woods, Granville 482
 Woodson, Carter G. 483
 wool 138, 155, 302, 342, 414
 workers 213, 223, 236, 303, 319
 working class 447, 449
 World Bank 305, 320, 322, 324, 335, 359, 370
 World Council of Churches 394
 World Health Organization (WHO) 393, 395-6
 world trade 140, 151, 320, 326, 371
 World War, Second 175, 185, 188, 195, 197, 199, 202-5, 210, 213, 215-16;
 after 96, 181, 194, 198
 First 159, 165, 173, 175, 179, 188, 193, 195, 197, 199, 361, 393, 446-7, 473;
 after 167, 181, 186-7, 192, 194, 248
 writing 85-6, 90-1, 93-4, 101, 106, 108, 111, 251
 Wuchale treaty 172
 Xhosa 77, 84, 86, 129-30, 270
 Yacé, Phillipe 237
 yam 72, 294, 296, 319, 341
 Yaméogo, Maurice 258
 yams 73, 78, 295, 304, 328
 Yao people, traders 86, 129-30, 150
 Yaoundé 227, 395, 461
 Yeha 106
 Yeke 150
 Yekuno Amlak, Emperor 122
 Yemen 107, 110, 115, 122-4, 200, 230, 470
 Yeskwa language 77
 Yhombi-Opango, Colonel Joachim, see Opango
 Yishaq 123
 Yohannes IV, Emperor 155, 167, 171-2
 Yoruba 77, 80, 86, 143, 153, 246, 382, 391
 arts 334, 413-4, 431, 434-7, 449, 454
 states 130, 133-4, 148, 416
 Youlou, Abbé Fulbert 202, 229
 Young Kavirondo Association 193
 Young Tunisians 197
 Yugoslavia 471
 Yusuf ibn Tasfin 116
 Yusuf Pasha 140
 Zafar 109-10
 Zaghawa language 75
 Zaghlul, Saad 186-7
 Zagwe (= ze Agew) 'of the Agew' dynasty 120-22
 Zaire 33, 48-9, 260-1, 285, 311, 384, 390, 395, 411
 agriculture, forestry 279, 295, 298
 archaeology, history 99, 125, 165, 205
 arts 414, 428, 445, 449, 454
 economy 274, 336, 353-4, 360-2, 371-2, 386
 external relations 219, 229, 243, 262, 357, 462-4, 467
 minerals 280-3, 324, 334, 336, 349, 351
 Mobutu 228, 256, 265, 269
 peoples, language 75, 77-9, 82-5, 287
 Zaire basin 36, 45, 47-9, 125
 river 36, 45, 127, 130, 141, 143, 149, 164
 Zaire-Oubangui 361
 Zama battle 101
Zamana Mesafent 'era of princes' 155
 Zambezi 273, 285, 306, 396
 Zambezi basin, valley 45, 65, 70, 82, 128, 144, 149, 165
 lower 128
 middle 129, 136
 upper 68, 128, 130
 Zambezi, area south of 70, 127, 144, 219
 area north of 171
 Zambia 95, 392
 Zambia 213-4, 261-2, 269, 285, 395, 405, 410, 435, 453
 archaeology, history 62, 67-8, 99, 128, 130, 165
 economy 270, 272-4, 279, 343, 349, 351, 353, 355, 361-2
 external relations 241, 244, 263, 461-2, 467-8
 minerals 220, 280-2, 324, 334-6, 349, 351, 372
 peoples 82-4, 86, 287
 Zambia African National Congress (ZANC) 213
 ZANC see Zambia African National Congress
 Zande language 77
 Zanj 118, 469, 471
 ZANU see Zimbabwe African National Union
 Zanzibar 78, 85, 152, 184, 211-2, 267
 Arab state 85, 128, 150, 154
 cloves 129, 150, 184
 Germans 157, 163
 union with Tanganyika 256, 467
 Zanzibar Nationalist Party (ZNP) 211-12
 ZAPU, see Zimbabwe African People's Union
 zar 471
 Zaria 132, 355, 430, 433
 Zarid, Sinaika 451
 Zarma, see Djerma language
 Zawditu (daughter of Menelik) 204
 Zawila 114
 zawiya 139
 Zeila 119-20, 122
 Zenati language 75
 Zezuru people 85
 Zimbabwe 33, 84-5, 216-7, 220, 262-3, 269, 441, 456
 agriculture 220, 297, 303
 archaeology, history 67, 70, 99, 127-8
 economy 261, 270, 273, 303, 341, 343, 361-2, 372
 minerals 99, 118, 280-2, 335-6
 Zimbabwe, kingdom, see Great Zimbabwe
 Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) 214, 244, 263
 Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) 214, 263
 Zimbabwe-Rhodesia 263
 zinc 185, 282
 Zionism 460
 Zirids 115
 Ziyarids (= Abd al-Wadids) 116, 137-8
 ZNP, see Zanzibar Nationalist Party
 Zombepata 67
 Zoser, king, see Djoser
 Zouerate 362
 Zugwalla Mountain 124
 Zulu 77, 84, 86, 158, 216, 382, 434, 442
 kingdom 86, 99, 130, 155
 Zumbo 128
 Zungeru 209
 Zwangendaba 130

THE AFRICAN CONTINENT



Tsavo National Park, Kenya: a water-hole in the dry season

his newspaper, the *Negro World*. With branches in Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America, Harvey created an African Orthodox Church, and a shipping line—the Black Star Line—to transport his followers back to Africa and communicate between Africa and Africans of the diaspora. Garvey's scheme collapsed when he was convicted of fraud and, in 1927, deported. Nonetheless, his movement contributed greatly to restoring black pride and dignity.

In 1950 Ralph Bunche received the Nobel Peace Prize for his mediation of the Palestine dispute in the service of the UN. Four years later the US Supreme Court declared segregated schools unconstitutional, and, in effect, reversed the support it had given to that system since 1896. Throughout the South whites resisted, and the level of interracial violence increased. The symbol of the new passive revolution—which quickly became active—was the refusal of Mrs Rosa Parks of Montgomery, Alabama to surrender her bus seat to a

Dr Martin Luther King Jr leads 10 000 civil rights marchers from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, 25 March 1965



white person. Her arrest resulted in a massive bus boycott. The ensuing struggle brought to the fore the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr (who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964) and his Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Other associations, such as the Congress of Racial Equality, and the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee joined the struggle for civil rights. In 1964 Congress passed a Civil Rights Law that declared segregation and discrimination illegal. By the beginning of the 1980s although conditions had improved considerably—and the list of martyrs had grown much longer—black Americans still had a long way to go to attain full equality in the country they had helped build and defend.

Canada

Except for the years immediately before and during the Civil War, Canada has never played host to a large number of black people. From a peak of about 50–60 000 in 1861, the black population in Canada declined to less than 20 000 in 1901 and, insofar as the black element in the Canadian population can be readily identified, stood at about 40 000 in 1980. Probably the first slaves to be brought direct from Africa to Canada were imported into French Canada in the late 1620s. Thereafter Canada became a significant, if relatively minor, part of the slave-owning territories of the British Empire, a situation complicated by an influx of blacks from other parts of North America. During the American War of Independence black slaves in what was to become the USA were encouraged to escape from their masters and assist the British, and were then granted their freedom. Most went to the West Indies but a considerable number, the 'Black Loyalists', were settled in Nova Scotia: meanwhile white 'loyalists' fled to Canada bringing their slaves with them. The Nova Scotian freed blacks were not treated as well in Canada as they had been promised—particularly as far as allocation of land was concerned—and 1200 of them formed the bulk of the participants who made a second attempt, in 1792, to form a settlement of freed slaves in Sierra Leone.* In the early 19th century US blacks continued to escape from slavery into Canada, a movement that was accelerated by the abolition of slavery in the British Empire in 1834, and culminated in the movements associated with the Civil War. Canada was only marginally affected—particularly in areas near the border with the USA—by the massive migration from the rural southern USA to the northern cities between the 1870s and the 1930s. Nevertheless, the first 40 years of the 20th century saw an upsurge of racism in Canada which has only begun to be fundamentally reversed since the early 1960s. While the Canadians did not construct an elaborate legal apparatus to restrict the lives of black Canadians, the Department of Immigration and Colonization carefully screened immigration of non-whites. No overt segregation existed, but subtle forms of discrimination achieved a socio-economic situation not very different from that in the USA.

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